

Dear Kiddie Academy families,

Helping Children To Love Themselves And Others

You have one of the world's most important jobs. You help children feel strong, able, and loveable. Your positive, caring attitude is catching. As caregivers, your job is to encourage children to think about how people are alike and different, to ask all kinds of questions, and to find answers they can understand. Your words and attitude tell children that differences are wonderful. From birth, children begin to learn to love themselves and others. Infants and toddlers start to see differences between people. They notice skin colors, hair colors and textures, eye shapes, and other features of race and ethnic background. Toddlers may reach out to feel each other's hair. Older 2-year-olds may stare or say things such as "What's that?"

Many other young children already have negative ideas about themselves. "I can't," they say. Or you overhear them mutter, "I never do anything right." They may not know how to get along well with other children. Such children may seem quiet and shy, or they may be bullies.

How do you help children love themselves and others? First, look at your own attitudes, values, and behaviors. Then, include activities to help children appreciate each other's differences, develop a sense of fairness, and learn to stand up for themselves and others.

When you help children notice and accept, in fact, celebrate differences, you pave the way to prevent prejudice and promote compassion, tolerance, and understanding.

Warm regards,

Jordan & Sarah

Happy Birthday!

Taylor L. 2/1

Graham K. 2/5

Sebastian N. & Nolan B. 2/16

Ms. Caroline 2/18

Austin F. 2/21

Jacob D. 2/26

Teaching the Twin Values of Respect and Tolerance

Throughout the month of February, Kiddie Academy's character education curriculum focuses on the joint values of respect and tolerance. These abstract values, which affect every single interaction children have with others—from family members to peers and teachers—can't be taught from a textbook. But you can weave in lessons of respect and tolerance into your family's everyday life. Here are some ways.

Teach your child that she has value, and should treat herself with respect. You can help your child understand the intangible concept of self-respect by applying it to tangible concepts, like eating healthy, using good hygiene, getting enough sleep. As your child gets older, the conversation about self-respect can naturally segue into more complicated related topics, like sexual activity, alcohol and drug use, etc. Only when children learn the importance of self-respect can they be expected to respect others.

Share stories that demonstrate respect and tolerance. Intangible concepts like respect and tolerance may be better understood by children through stories—whether those in a book or from your imagination. After sharing, ask your child how the characters acted respectfully (or not). Also ask your child what he would have done in the same situation, both as the protagonist and the antagonist. Here are some examples of children's books that address these values, and can help you open up your own conversation about them: *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*; *My Head is Full of Colors*; *Ellis Island: Doorway to Freedom*.

Respond to children's disrespectful comments.

Children, especially very young children, tend to possess a very egocentric view of the world. They often assume that everybody looks, acts and talks like they do. So when they see someone who doesn't, they may make comments that appear rude to adults. If and when your child does this, use it as a "teachable moment." You needn't scold harshly. Instead, talk about how everyone is different and unique. Also, point out that it doesn't feel good to be made fun of, or to be stared at, and that we wouldn't want people to do that to us. This lesson takes on far greater significance, of course, when we display through our own actions respect and tolerance of people who appear different from us.

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EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE

Teachable Moments

Mr. Rogers said, We are all different in many ways, but sometimes children are afraid to be different because they want to be like the people they love. Some children may even come to feel there's something wrong with being different. That's why grown-ups need to help children learn that being different is part of what makes them special to the people who love them.

February Special Events

Thursday February 10th

PNO 6:30-11:30 p.m.

Thursday February 10th

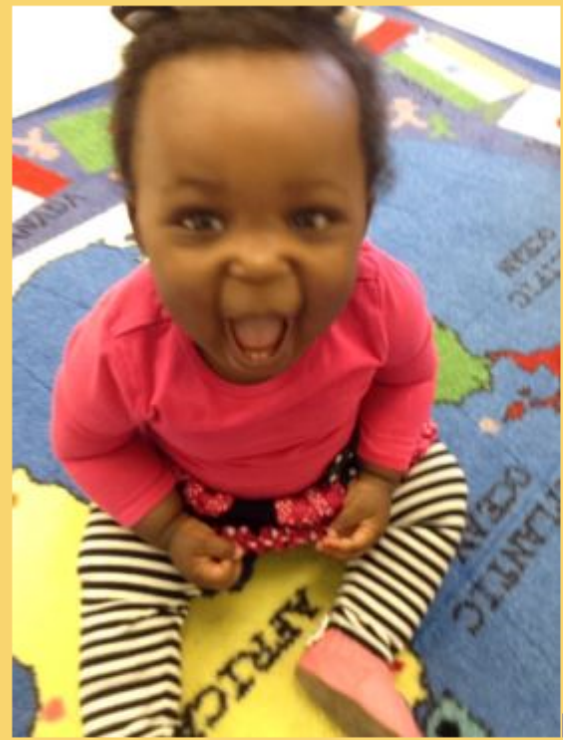
We will be holding our annual Valentine's Day event @3:00 p.m. Bring enough valentines for everyone in your child's classroom. There will be a sign up sheet for food items on your child's classroom door.

Thursday February 17th

Dress up in your favorite super hero costume!

Friday February 24th

Visit from the local Dentist



Photos
of the Month



Parent Reminders –

Weekly Tuition is due Wednesday

Monthly Tuition is due Thursday of the month end

Please make sure your child has a change of clothes in case of a spill or potty accidents

All bottles and sippy cups must be labeled with your child's first and last name per State.