

C.A.T.S.

**October 2010
Cooperation**



**Character *A*ctivities for
*T*eachers and *S*tudents**

**Duval County Public Schools
Jacksonville, Florida**

***“Character Education isn’t one more thing
on your plate. It IS the plate!”***

*****The Florida state legislature mandates the character traits that are covered each year. The order is consistent from year to year for ease of planning.***

October:

Cooperation: Makes the wheels of community go 'round.

****Cooperation means working together successfully.**

****To be cooperative means that you want to be part of the community and are willing to work with others.**

Children demonstrate cooperation by:

- 1. volunteering to help.**
- 2. being willing to take direction from others.**
- 3. being someone who can step forward to lead when necessary.**
- 4. listening to suggestions from others.**
- 5. following directions.**
- 6. helping others when they need it.**

Cooperation Quote:

“Leadership is based on inspiration, not domination; on cooperation, not intimidation.” William Arthur Ward

Activity Ideas:

Elementary: Divide students into 3-4 groups, and give them magazines to cut pictures from. Assign each group a category of pictures, such as people, nature, animals, toys, etc. Once they have their pictures cut out, bring the groups together to create one large picture.

Secondary: Assign students the task of creating a large mural in the classroom or other suitable central location. They must decide as a group on the theme or topic of the mural; what media they will use (paint, chalk, pencil, photos, etc); distribution of tasks; and then creation of the mural.

Books to use for Cooperation:

Elementary:

Clifford to the Rescue, by Norman Bridwell: RL: 1.6, LX: 170

Great Gilly Hopkins, by Katherine Paterson: RL: 4.6, LX: 800

House Mouse, Citizen Mouse, by Peter Barnes and Cheryl Shaw: RL: 4.6

Little's and Their Amazing New Friends, by John Peterson: RL: 4.7, LX: 730

Miracles on Maple Street, by Virginia Sorenson: RL: 4.9, LX: 750

Patchwork Quilt, by Valerie Flourney: RL: 3.7, LX: 520

Stellaluna, by Janell Cannon: RL: 3.5, LX: 550

Swimmy, by Leo Lionni, RL: 2.9, LX: 640

Secondary:

Watership Down, by Richard Adams: RL: 6.2, LX: 880

Diary of a Young Girl, by Ann Frank: RL: 9.2

Kids with Courage, by Barbara Lewis: RL: 5.8, LX: 520

Parent Tips



“Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.”

C. Everett Koop

On July 1, 2008, the Jeffrey Johnston “Stand Up For All” legislation went into effect in Florida. Schools are now required by law to have a process in place to prevent and also deal with reported bullying on their campuses. They must investigate reports of harassment, and they are required to provide counseling for students who are victimized as well as the students who engage in bullying behavior.

However, as parents we must start at the beginning: We must raise and nurture children who are not bullies:

- We must practice effective anger management ourselves and then teach our children the same. This includes helping them identify their feelings and then controlling those feelings when necessary.
- Children must learn that their behavior has consequences. Have rules in your home with consequences for breaking them. Manage the rules consistently, calmly, and with love, but hold your children accountable for what they do.
- We must use effective discipline that does NOT involve hitting our children. This is a heated topic, but if we hit our children, we are role modeling that it's acceptable to hit others who are smaller than we are. After all, isn't that what is happening to them by the most important people in their lives, their parents?
- It is important to monitor sibling rivalry in our homes. Mild teasing might be acceptable, harassment and torture are not.
- It is essential that we lock our doors against violent movies, television programs, and computer games. Know what your children are watching and turn it off when necessary.

- **Parents must control the use of cell phones and the Internet by our children. These tools of technology are a huge problem with cyber bullying.**

The number one way to build children who don't bully others, however, is to regain control of our families. We must spend time together and we must pay attention to one another. This means that we talk to our kids about what is going on in their world and then open the world to them by taking them as a family to an array of new activities and events. Museums, art galleries, the zoo, and community events that celebrate other cultures and groups are good ways to bond as a family. Children have to know that their parents view them as important people and are willing to take time from their own activities to be with them. Bullies are often crying out for attention that they don't get at home. Let's give them the positive experiences that they need to be happy, functioning members of society.

Parenting is a time-intensive undertaking. We can easily become caught up in the daily whirlwind of our lives, but we must consider what is happening in the larger society around us. Instead of bemoaning the state of the world, we have to ask ourselves what we have contributed to the problem. More importantly, we must ask ourselves if we're willing to do something about it by starting within the four walls of our homes.

Bully Proofing Your School



Bullying often happens when groups of people do not understand each another. Fear generates behavior that attacks instead of embraces.

One program that has been shown to bring diverse groups together at schools, even if it is a small step at the beginning, is

Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

“Mix It Up at Lunch Day is a day where students can get out of their cliques or groups and experience meeting new people that they may have never noticed before.....When you sit with other people you get to know their personalities and expand your social skills. Mix It Up at Lunch Day is a great way to get people out of their comfort zones.” Jazzmine H., Rootstown Middle School, Ohio. (From Teaching Tolerance magazine, Fall 2010)

This year’s Mix It Up Day is November 9th. Go to www.mixitup.org to get started! You will find many resources at this site to organize your own Mix It Up Day. Better yet, let your students plan and implement the day.

Then take pictures and send them to us...we’ll highlight **YOUR** Mix It Up Day.

Additional Resources



Workshops:

What is Bullying?

Infusing Character into Academics

Infusing Character into the School Culture and Climate

Parenting for Character (for PTA groups)

Character and SEL

Other topics upon request.

Please call Deborah Hansen, Coordinator, at 904-568-0786 to discuss or schedule any of the above, or email her at debrhan48@comcast.net.



Character libraries were purchased for every school in the district. These libraries consist of approximately 150 books of all genres and should be in your media center.

Use these books to support your “Book of the Month” program!

**How is YOUR school building kids of character?
Send your class/school photos for publication in this
space!**



Florida Statutes require that all schools in the state provide a character development program in all grades, K-12.

However, the most important reason for teaching children positive character is encompassed in our job as educators: To prepare our students to be positive, productive members of society.

The character traits for 2010-11 are as follows:

- **August: Responsibility**
- **September: Respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property.**
- **October: Cooperation**
- **November: Patriotism**
- **December: Kindness**
- **January: Racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance.**
- **February: Charity**
- **March: Honesty**
- **April: Self-control**
- **May: Citizenship: Living a life of character.**

The DCPS district has supplied the schools with a diverse selection of materials to meet this mandate. The monthly newsletter can help you meet the requirement for character education through its tips for teachers and parents.

The elementary character education curriculum, *Mini-Lessons for Maximum Character*, is found on RiverDeep. (Please look under “Courses” under the Instructional Organizer tab.)

The secondary curriculum, *Connect with Kids*, is a complete set of lessons by trait, accompanied by video clips. Check in your media center.

Questions? Need to schedule a workshop?

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