

# Character Education Theme of the month is Compassion

la compasión, 愛心, das Mitgefühl, merhamet, сострадание, दय, दिलसूझ, kahabagan, شفقة

## Can parents teach COMPASSION to their children?

Sure, kids are egocentric and are sometimes convinced the world revolves around them and them alone. Sure, kids fight with their siblings and don't give a hoot about hurting their sibling's feelings.

But kids have an amazing amount of empathy. Even babies as young as a year old will pat another baby who is crying. Children identify with a hurt child on the playground and don't want to see anyone in pain.

What children need from us parents are the skills of compassion along with a few lessons on how important it is to be nice to children less fortunate than they are.

When your preschooler points to a child on crutches or wearing a hearing aid, your job is to explain that some children's legs or ears don't work well, and they need extra help. Ask your children how they would feel if they needed extra help and someone pointed or laughed.

Compassion is an important human attribute. Your children will benefit from learning about compassion and how to show compassion.

### What You Can Do

- ★ Talk about the point of view of others as you watch TV, read books or discuss other people with your child. For example, ask, "What do you think that character is feeling and thinking?"
- ★ Show care toward others, such as doing errands for sick neighbors or opening doors for others.
- ★ Give others the benefit of the doubt. If your child complains that a classmate deliberately pushed her down on the way to lunch, explain that sometimes when people are in a hurry, they don't watch where they're going—they don't mean to push or hurt anyone.
- ★ Be open to differences. If your child says, "Our new neighbors dress funny," explain that people often wear clothes that reflect their cultures or native countries.

