***December Lesson - Caring***

*Questions Before Teaching (While Setting up)*

(Ask) What does it mean to be caring?

1. Showing concern for the well being of others.

2. Using your words and actions to help someone.

3. Giving of yourself without expecting anything in return.

(Ask) What are some words that describe the character trait of caring?

1. Kindness

2. Thoughtful

3. Sharing

4. Helping

5. Understanding

(Ask) What are some ways we can demonstrate caring?

1. Be kind to everyone and do not exclude others from activities you are doing.

2. Show respect to people, plants, animals, property and the environment.

3. Listen to what other have to say.

4. Give to help others in need. For example: collect canned goods for local food pantries, donate gently used clothing and toys, send a card of encouragement to someone who is sick.

5. Be helpful in all situations, at school, home and in your community.

(Ask) Why is it important to be caring towards others?

1. Makes someone else feel better or happy.

2. Helps us to feel good about ourselves.

3. We learn compassion for others and look beyond our own needs.

4. May inspire others to be caring too.

5. Makes the world a better place.

(Ask) How do others show caring to us?

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***Book***

The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein

<http://www.slideshare.net/peneglos/thegivingtree?next_slideshow=1>

***After Story Questions***

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***SHARE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE OF CARING***

***Activities***

***Caring Ball - First Activity***

Waves of Kindness (Suggested for all grades) Materials: Beach ball

Though we should never expect anything for doing something kind, explain that when we keep being kind and caring to others -

Others will be kind to us.

Suppose you threw this beach ball into the ocean. The ball would return to you, no matter how hard or far you threw it. The waves would keep rolling in, and before you knew it, the beach ball would come bobbing back to shore.

Kind words and action are just like that. You toss them out, and before you know it, others are kind to us.

Caring makes the world a better place for everyone.

**Activity: Throw the beach ball to a student, have them share an example of a caring action, and then throw it back to you, Throw it to next person. Make sure everyone gets a chance.**

***Acting***

In this activity you can give them a scenario such as “act out an example of caring” or “act out taking care of a cat or pet”. Make sure that they do not touch each other or use other classroom items without permission.

***Cards of Caring - If you have Extra Time***

Cards of Caring (Suggested for all grades) Have students write notes of appreciation and encouragement to someone in the school e.g.:cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers, front office staff, etc. Arrange with the classroom teacher to have the students personally deliver their caring cards. Ideally have kids make cards for people who don’t normally get such as janitor, bus driver and cafeteria workers. Emphasize this. Don’t need to put names. You can ask teacher if it is okay if the kids can give to the janitor, cafeteria people, bus drivers etc.

***Video***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5UBikauIQM>

***Snack -*** Candy Canes