



Community Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE means doing something helpful for one's community or neighborhood.

Activity 1

Discuss the meaning and the importance of COMMUNITY SERVICE with your child. Together, think of people that provide community services in your area. Use the phone book to help identify service providers and make a list of them in your area. As an extended activity, show your child where each service provider is located on a map or ask your child to map each community service location in your area. Talk about the importance of what each location does for the community and why it is considered a valuable service.

Activity 2

Emphasize the importance of community service with your child. Listen to the news together or look through the newspaper to locate stories or articles that highlight community service activities in your community. Discuss the impact of the community service activities that you discover. Together, select one article and determine the following information as it relates to the community service about which it was written. Have your child discover: Who? What? Where? When? and Why? Encourage your child to read another article, or read one to him or her.

Activity 3

Play a "What If Game" with your child to demonstrate how different your community would be without the many services that are provided daily. Play the game by saying, "What if we had no....." Fill in the blank with a community service such as library, fire department, police department, trash pick up, etc. Have your child describe the effect on the community if that service wasn't provided. Continue the game as time allows. At the end, ask your child which service he or she would miss the most. Tell which one you would miss the most and discuss why.

Activity 4

Explain to your child that doing a community service can be a small act, yet still be very meaningful. Talk to your child about something you can do today, without any resources or preparation that would demonstrate community service. Create a Do Something Today chart for your home listing as many things as you can think of that can be done throughout the day to "make someone else's day." Examples could include: pick up litter; compliment a neighbor or family member; begin a healthier lifestyle; start a clean neighborhood campaign, etc. Encourage family members to do something from the list every day.

Activity 5

Explain to your child that many community service organizations help promote a good cause. Help your child understand that a cause is a principle, ideal, goal, or movement to which a person or group is dedicated. Together with your child, think of a cause that you as a family would like to support. The following causes can be used as examples: Hurricane Relief Fund; ending homelessness; help for the elderly; saving an endangered species, etc. Together, think of ways that you may be able to bring awareness to the cause you selected.