

Teaching Kids to Care

No matter what subject(s) you teach, your job is not limited to just pure academics. A nurturing school environment facilitates student confidence and comfort, which in turn aid the learning process. In addition, teaching children to care is part and parcel of sparking social consciousness and integrity. Are you following the steps to promoting a sense of caring and responsibility?

- You set a good example, not only in the classroom but also around the school (e.g. developing faculty cooperation and following school rules) and with parents and community.
- You show students that you care about them.
- You incorporate exercises that promote cooperation between students.
- You guide students through the problem solving process when there are fights, helping them become socially responsible.
- You build students' senses of responsibility.
- You assign students to routine classroom tasks or institute a "job responsibility" program with classroom chores like caring for the class pet, cleaning the chalkboard, etc.
- At the beginning of the year, you allow students to discuss and negotiate classroom rules, as well as the consequences for breaking those rules.

Helpful Resources:

- Create a Caring Classroom
http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/todayschild/create_caring.htm
- All Together Now!
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor/together.htm>
- Resources from Dr. Bruce Perry
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/bruceperry/>