

Ideas
for Teaching Character
January, 2005

CARING



Concerned for the welfare of others and self

Why Teach Caring?

- Being helpful and concerned about others helps build students' sense of self-worth and connectedness.
- Caring people are less likely to tolerate violence against themselves, others, or property.
- Having concern for others helps students be less self-centered.
- Learning to care for themselves helps students become independent and responsible.

Check it out!

- See how other students are demonstrating caring:
www.esrnational.org/home.htm
- Suggestions of caring things kids can do:
www.dosomething.org

“Character education is about celebrating what's right with young people while enabling them to develop knowledge and life skills for enhancing ethical and responsible behavior.” From:
<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/SchoolsOnline/charactered.html>

Quotes:

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” ...Gandhi

“Helping others makes our hearts strong.” ...Anonymous

“If you care for yourself, you can care for others too.”
...Paul Tillich

“Kind words cost little but accomplish much.” ...Hal Urban

Lesson Ideas: Caring

- Talk about the language of caring. What words suggest a caring attitude? What words don't sound caring?
- Ask students to list the people they think care about them. What actions do these persons take to demonstrate caring?
- Discuss a classroom in which students care about each other. Remind students that we usually get back the same attitudes we give out.
- Talk about what “caring” looks like in the world. Is caring only for people we know and like?