

WEEK 18 Respecting Differences



Dear Parent/Guardian,

In this week's lesson, kindergartners are learning to focus on similarities in others, rather than differences. Wise Ol' Wilbur taught them the following rhyme:

**Friends may come
in all looks and smarts;
What matters most
is the size of their hearts.**

Your child's teacher explained that when we look at others with the eyes of our hearts, we care more about their qualities on the inside (such as their friendship, their sense of humor, their kindness) than we care about what they look like on the outside (such as the color of their hair or skin).

Try this activity at home to support your child's understanding and appreciation of differences in others:

- Gather your family in the kitchen to help every member learn a valuable lesson about how much we all need each other.
 - Use your favorite cookie recipe and work together as a family with each member taking part in the process. Each person can contribute something different to the recipe, taking turns.
 - Talk about the importance of each person contributing something different to the cookies and that each ingredient is different, but of equal importance, in making the cookies. You cannot leave out flour or sugar, for example, and still make a good cookie.
 - Mold each cookie into a different shape, using cookie cutters or your hands.
 - Bake and enjoy!

While you are eating the cookies, talk about the fact that they all look different but taste the same and are all good cookies. Relate the cookies to the similarities and differences within your own family. Remind them to focus more on what is the same, not on what is different!

From our hearts to yours,



PS Don't forget to ask your child to explain UNDERSTANDING and ACCEPTANCE.

UNDERSTANDING—Accepting others for who they are

ACCEPTANCE—Treating everyone I meet with respect, even when they are different from me

