



Teddy Talk

Issue No. 5 | December 2022



We celebrate connections with each other and with our community. We know that we can make an impact by being responsible for our shared spaces.

It is all about Connection

Humans are social creatures by nature- hard wired by systems in our brains. Through these systems we build relationships with ourselves, each other and the world through experiences and interactions. As we support our youngest connectors, we create intentional opportunities for each of these relationships to be positive and supportive.

Social studies in early childhood is simply a developing awareness and basic investigation of these connections. We use concepts such as history, economics, civics and geography and explore them through play and the classroom community.

We experience history through our own growth from infant to toddler to preschooler. Children are able to recognize change and sequence over time as we use the lens of our own experiences. We may reflect on our days or make class memory books. We recall information from previous lessons. We plan for upcoming events or simply our own play. All of these moments help build the foundations for understanding history.

We experience the economy through classroom jobs to represent an exchange of services. We talk about wants and needs. In our dramatic play centers, we may have a cash register and children pretend to buy groceries or sell ice cream. We will also set up simple observations of coins to practice identifying money. Play is a powerful tool for making the abstract ideas come to life.

As part of being in a classroom community, we develop ideas around civics and interacting as part of a group. We establish rules and create classroom expectations. We talk about the impact of our choices on others and ourselves in the shared space. We engage in collaborative play and group projects. We learn about our strengths and how we can help one another. We also celebrate our families and traditions. We build a classroom community that is safe for taking intellectual risks and supportive as we grow together.

We expand knowledge of geography as we explore maps of our classrooms and make observations about places in our community. Many children will explore this topic in play as they build a house for their toy, drive toy cars to the pretend library they built from blocks and just describe what they see outside. Some of our favorite activities are when we get to connect with the amazing people in our community, like the October firefighter visits.

The National Council of Social Studies recognizes that "...the foundation of early childhood education is built upon relationships that children develop in their homes, communities, and schools...children meet new friends, learn to get along with others, share their opinions, engage in decision making, and contribute as a member of a group...Numerous examples showcase the capacity of young children to discuss, debate, and think critically to solve important problems as they interact with others to accomplish goals together."

Check out more here: <https://www.socialstudies.org/position-statements/early-childhood-social-studies-context>

Important Information

Coming Up...

November 28-December 20: Toy Drive
December 1: Make-It/Take-It @ 6pm
December 20: Winter Parties
December 22-January 6: Winter Break/PD Days



Random Acts of Kindness

Of course, connections can be developed in a multitude of ways. Try out some random acts of kindness to help build community and connection!

Benefits of Kindness

Did you know that being kind is good for your health. Kindness is related to positive mental health outcomes and increased life span. Practicing kindness can improve blood pressure and overall heart health. Check out more below:

<https://www.dartmouth.edu/wellness/emotional/rakhealthfacts.pdf>

Ideas for Acts of Kindness

There are many ideas that are easy for your child to show kindness. From drawing pictures for neighbors, leaving coins in a vending machine, sending gratitude notes to community members and spreading smiles as you run errands together. For more ideas, check out this site:

<https://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/100-acts-kindness-kids/>

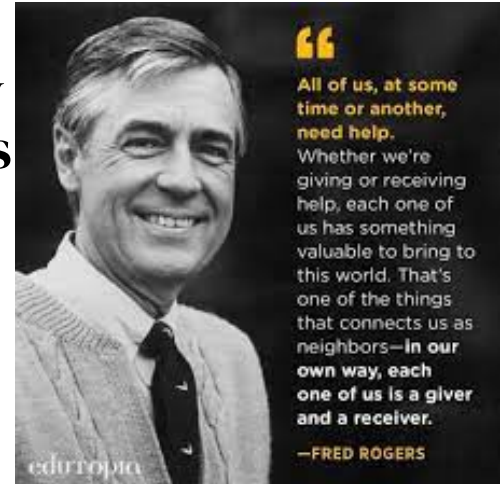
How to implement

Write one act of kindness on a small piece of paper or popsicle stick. Keep these ideas in a jar and pull one act of kindness out to try that day OR create BINGO sheet and try to get a BINGO.



Building Community Connections

Build your child's connections by joining community events or spending time in shared spaces. See below for ways to connect with various places in our local community!



Stay in the know! Widefield School District 3 partners with peachjar to share information with you about events and opportunities in our community for your child and family. Use the above link/QR Code to see current flyers AND sign up!

Using the links/QR Codes below, you can access other community organizations and learn more about each of the opportunities they provide.



Security Public Library offers a large variety of free activities, including crafts for adults and children, Bingo in town, 100 Book Challenge, Story time, and tons of books and movies for community members to borrow.



Widefield Parks and Recreation offers a variety of activities for all age levels throughout the entire year. Tuesday, December 6th is the 17th annual Holiday Tree Lighting with many free activities for the family.



Explore a State Park

Check out the families activities backpacks!



Pikes Peak Library Culture Pass, register with the library and check out a Culture Pass which can allow you to explore museums and attractions in the Pikes Peak region at NO Cost! The Pikes Peak Library also offers lots of activities.



Bear Creek Nature Center and Fountain Creek Nature Center offer many programs for young children. Little Wonders and Nature Explorers are at Bear Creek Nature Center for a small cost and Fountain Creek Nature Center has a variety of nature activities for a small cost.

Stay in the loop! Follow our Facebook page for information, tips, and more! [Click here](#) or scan the QR code

