



Respecting Diversity

Every year we join in this month-long celebration designed to encourage reading as a fun activity for the whole family. Reading, and understanding what you read, is a skill that everyone needs to be successful. The best way to improve understanding is to read a lot. There is nothing like a challenging book to lift you up or take you to another world. Developing a love of reading will be an asset to your child in all areas of school and give him/her a jumpstart to a lifetime of reading!

Today more than ever children interact with people of differing ethnicities, religions, and cultures. Their circle of friends, their schoolmates, and their athletic teams are much more diverse than those of even a generation ago. The person who learns to be open to differences will have more opportunities in education, business, and many other aspects of life. Your child's success depends on being able to understand, appreciate, and include others.

Parents who understand the 7 Habits come to realize that the 7 Habits encourage and welcome inclusiveness and respect for diversity as well as having integrity to one's own beliefs:

Habit 1: Be Proactive

- You're in Charge: Take responsibility for your thoughts and actions.

Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind

- Have a Plan: Know what you want and what you value and believe.

Habit 3: Put First Things First

- Work First, Then Play: Live by your values and beliefs.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

- Everyone Can Win: Think mutual benefit with others.

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

- Listen Before You Talk: Seek to understand others and to be understood by others.

Habit 6: Synergize

- Together is Better: Creatively cooperate with others.

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

- Balance Feels Best: Continuously renew your body, brain, heart, and soul.

When parents encourage learning and living the 7 Habits they are teaching their children to respect diversity while always acting with integrity to their own principles and values.