

the family values toolkit

For Children Ages 5 to 7

This Month's Featured Value Is: **Generosity**

Generous people freely give or share what they value--such as possessions, money, time, or love--in a positive spirit. Giving makes them feel good, not deprived or resentful. Generosity is tied closely to empathy, since the reward for behaving generously is often the satisfaction of making someone happy.



What Can Parents Do to Nurture This Important Value?

First, Set Goals:

Help kids identify with another's happiness, and teach them that they can turn their own ideas into generous behavior.

Once in elementary school, children become focused more on fairness and equality than on generosity. They may be hard-pressed to understand why someone would give up something without receiving something concrete in return. Birthday parties--a major part of school-age kids' social lives--offer them the opportunity to learn to be gracious givers (in anticipation of their own birthday haul).

Next, Take Action! Try These Activities:

- ✓ **Play "Secret Pal."** Each participant chooses a member of the family. Sometime during the day, do a generous thing that the person would like, but don't tell him that you did it, such as make your brother's bed. At the end of the day, have a family circle, where each person shares what nice thing happened to them, and how it made them feel.
- ✓ **Bring your children along or get their suggestions when you select a birthday gift for a friend.** Or, ask your child to come up with something nice to do for a sibling and help carry out the idea.
- ✓ **Set up a "bear hug" project.** With a group of kids and parents, collect new or slightly used teddy bears to be distributed to children in emergency rooms or police stations. (From "Kids Who Care," by Deborah Spaide)

Then, Report Back!

Share your stories of success, your challenges, and overall experiences with others in our community @

responsibilityproject.com/familyvalues