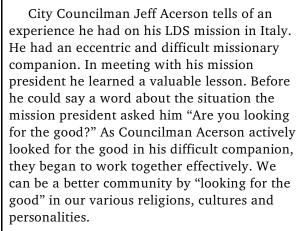
CHARACTE

Tolerance/Valuing Diversity

Tolerance: "is a fair and objective attitude toward those whose opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality, etc., differ from one's own."

"What is tolerance?-it is the consequence of humanity. We are all formed of frailty and error; let us pardon reciprocally each other's folly-that is the first law of nature." Voltaire



My nephew met a Russian girl at their neighborhood park in Phoenix. The girl spoke only Russian and my nephew only English. Chance quite naturally included the girl in the games he was playing with the other children. He saw her often at the park and enjoyed involving her in the fun. These preschoolers seemed quite oblivious to the obvious barriers to their friendship. Chance attended Adriadna's birthday party. My sister loved the experience of learning about the family's background, eating their traditional foods, and playing traditional Russian games. Friendship grew in the face of diverse backgrounds, language and culture. The implications of acceptance on the playground for world peace and understanding are profound.

This summer my parents were involved in a joint activity that involved Mormons and Catholics working side by side to clean up a lot adjacent to their churches. They enjoyed a BBQ after the clean up. Christian neighbors working side by side focusing more on what they have in common than on their differences.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama says, "Whenever I meet people I always approach them from the standpoint of the most basic things we have in common. We each have a

physical structure, a mind, emotions. We are all born in the same way, and we all die. All of us want happiness and do not want to suffer. Looking at others from this standpoint rather than emphasizing secondary differences such as the fact that I am Tibetan, or a different color, religion, or cultural background, allows me to have a feeling that I'm meeting someone just the same as me."

From 1889 until his death in 1894, author Robert Louis Stevenson lived in Samoa. He was loved and respected by the Samoan people. On one occasion he traveled to Hawaii taking one of his Samoan servants along. One evening he was in a bar where a wealthy, successful American, learning of his identity wanted to speak with him and buy him a drink. Robert L.Stevenson agreed, bringing along his Samoan servant. The American was uncomfortable with having a "native" and a servant as their drinking companion. Robert L. Stevenson stood and said "If this bar is not good enough for my friend, it is not good enough for me." He then left with his Samoan friend.

In our community we do an incredible job of taking care of our own. May we define "our own" in the light of the Master teacher's tale of the Good Samaritan.

"Let our thoughts, our words, and deeds, ever be pure, kind and good. Let us live peaceably with each other, respecting one another in love. Let us see the good in our fellow man, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves.

> Thaylene Rogers Lindon Resident

(Reprint of Article from 2004 Lindon Character Connection)



"I have learnt SILENCE FROM THE TALKATIVE, TOLERATION FROM THE INTOLERANT, AND KINDNESS FROM THE UNKIND; YET STRANGE, I AM UNGRATEFUL TO THESE TEACHERS." --Kahlil Gibran

"The highest result of education is tolerance." -Helen Keller

"Tolerance and celebration of individual differences is the fire that fuels lasting love."

—Tom Hannah

Lindon Character Connection **Building Better Families**

Book List



White Dynamite and Curly Kidd by Bill Martin

Babushka Baba Yaga! by Patricia Polacco

So Far From The Sea by Eve Bunting

The Long March by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting

Family Activities

-Retell the folk story of "Stone Soup." Afterwards, let each family member add his favorite soup ingredient to a broth. Talk about the flavor each ingredient adds and and the value of variety.

-Sing a song in unison. Sing it again, this time adding alto, tenor, and bass. Talk about the richness of variety.

—Give each person a different color of crayon. Have each family member use only his crayon as he draws a picture of a house with a sunset in the background. Admire the pictures. Next, have everyone draw the same picture, this time using all of the crayons. How is variety the spice of life?

-William Penn was born on October 14, 1644. He founded Pennsylvania and wanted its settlers to enjoy religious freedom, as well as personal and property rights. Although King Charles had granted this region to him, he also paid the Indians for this same land. In fact, because his dealings with the Indians were fair, they never attacked his colony. How can we be more tolerant of those of differing religions, race, and abilities?

By Laura Clement

Kid's Corner

HONESTY When I was 8, my mother asked me to do some chores before we left on vacation. I hurried through getting ready and got into the car. My mother asked me while we were driving if I had remembered to feed the chickens. I had forgot! I did not want to cause trouble last minute and so I did not tell the truth. I told her the chore was done. We continued on our vacation and I forgot about it. When we got home, we discovered that the chickens had not been well cared for. I had not followed through or in my assignment. I also had not been honest and had to tell my parents the truth after hurting the animals. I learned from that experience to always tell the truth, because it just gets worse if you don't! I just feel better about myself when I am honest.

by Courtney Northridge Elementary

We, at Character Connection, would like to focus on helping parents access character materials by using the web site located at www.lindoncharacterconnection.com.

Lindon Character Connection



Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting financial support. If you can help please send contributions to:

Lindon Character Connection c/o Alpine Foundation

575 N 100 E American Fork, UT 84003

(You may also give your donation to any executive board member.)