Raising Kind and Caring Children

Pre-reading

Questions:
- Who taught you to be kind and caring?
- Do you know how to teach your child to be kind and care for others?

Definitions:
- Encourage – to say or do things to make someone feel good about their actions
- Elderly – old or aging
- Volunteer – to offer to help or do something of one’s own free will, without being paid
- Praise – to give approval, telling someone they did a good job
- Behavior – a way of acting

Reading

Encouraging kindness in children is an important responsibility for all adults. Children who are kind and caring have an easier time making friends and do better in school. Children who are kind and caring are pleasant to live with and nice to be around. As a parent, you can help teach your child to be kind and caring.

Here are some things that you can do to help develop kind and caring children:

- Set a good example by showing kindness and caring toward others. Children do what they see. If they see you being kind and caring, they will do the same.
- Work with your children to show them how to be kind and caring. Together make some food and bring to an elderly neighbor. Volunteer together to watch a single mom’s child for the day. Work together to wash the extra vegetables from your garden to bring to the local food shelf.
- Talk to your children about how they feel when they do nice things for others. Talk about the feelings of others. Talk about how it feels when someone is kind to them. Talk about how it feels when someone is unkind to them.
- Discuss with your children how important it is to be kind to others and to care for others. Explain that not everyone has someone kind and caring in their life. When we show kindness and caring, others will learn from us.
- Help your child understand that our schools and communities will be a better place to live when we are kind and caring. Help them understand that their kindness and caring makes a difference.
- Praise your child when you see them being kind or caring. Tell them you like that behavior. Tell them you are proud of them! Thank them and give them a hug!

Adapted from the University of Missouri and Kansas’s States Infoline

Level 5.5
Understanding

1. What should you do if you see your children being kind to someone? _________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

2. Whose responsibility is it to encourage kindness and caring in children? _______________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

3. What does the word develop mean? _________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

4. What could you and your children do with the extra vegetables in your garden? _________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

5. What does the word pleasant mean? ______________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

6. List two things you can do to develop kindness and caring in a child? _________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

7. What do you think the phrase makes a difference means? _________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

Writing

Option A: Tell about the person or people that taught you to be caring and kind.

Option B: In your own words, tell how you can develop children so they are kind and caring.

Option C: Write about someone you know that is kind and caring.