



### KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### SOCIAL-AWARENESS

**DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING SOCIAL-AWARENESS, WHICH IS ONE OF THE 5 CASEL COMPETENCIES. SOCIAL-AWARENESS IS THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE PERSPECTIVES OF AND EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND CULTURES**

**THERE ARE MANY SKILLS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SOCIAL AWARENESS. THIS MONTH'S ARTICLE WILL FOCUS ON WAYS TO TEACH AND PRACTICE EMPATHY IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY. PRACTICING EMPATHY CAN HELP CHILDREN BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL, THEIR COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYMENT.**

#### 5 WAYS TO TEACH YOUR CHILD EMPATHY:

##### Every one has a story to tell:

If your child complains to you that a friend is being mean or hurtful, remind your child that there may be more to their unkind behavior. Sometimes, a child's behavior has nothing to do with the situation, but due to unseen factors.

##### Emotional needs of children:

Be available to your children emotionally. Let them know you are there to listen and support them when they are experiencing strong feelings. If they feel secure in getting their emotional needs met; they are more likely to develop empathy for others

##### Encourage your child to find similarities with others:

When your child find things in common with others, they may be more able to see another person's perspective and opinions

##### Hold your child accountable:

If your child says something mean or rude towards another, remind them this isn't how we treat others: and it hurts feelings and relationships. Set limits or expectations if needed to help your children understand that bad behavior can affect others.



#### BOOKS THAT TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT EMPATHY:

THOSE SHOES

BY MARIBETH BOELTS

LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET

BY MATT DE LA PENA

THE INVISIBLE BOY

BY TRUDY LUDWIG

ALL ARE WELCOME

BY ALEXANDRA PENFOLD

I AM ENOUGH

BY GRACE BYERS



Teaching children: kindness, empathy and compassion are not simply a lesson learnt in the classroom.

They are values that children need to see and experience frequently.

[www.easypeasykids.com.au](http://www.easypeasykids.com.au)

- S • Kimberly Addis
- E • Discovery Elementary
- L • Carey Allaire
- Glenwood & Early Childhood Center
- C • Kayla Watson
- O • Brookwood & Challenger Elementary
- A • Kamaria Dawkins
- C • Bowen & Meadowlawn Elementary
- H • Sarah Schrauben
- E • Explorer & Southwood Elementary
- S • Mandy Williams
- Endeavor & Townline Elementary

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUITE360 SOCIAL EMOTIONAL CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOL AND HOME

