

# Tolerance

- Each month our students are introduced to a different character trait or life principle. For the month of February our character trait is Tolerance.
- Tolerance is having respect for the opinions, beliefs, and actions of others.
- “Tolerance is when you see things with your heart instead of your eyes.” ~Author Unknown

Our children today are living in a very diverse society. Although parents and teachers work hard at helping them to be tolerant and understanding of others, they face a tough uphill battle because many children are exposed daily to incidences of prejudice and stereotyping in movies, television, music, video games, and in their neighborhoods. As we educate children in their academics, we must also teach them how to be kind, compassionate, patient, and appreciative of people who they may perceive as “different.” Thank you for being a good example for your child and talking with them about this issue.

Sincerely,

Boyd Elementary

## Strategies for teaching tolerance:

1. Talk to children about tolerance. Ask them what it means to be tolerant.
2. Sit with your children and watch television. Look for examples of prejudice and/or stereotyping and follow up with productive discussions.
3. Closely monitor your child’s use of the media.
4. Make it very clear to children which types of jokes and humor are not acceptable.
5. Be honest about differences. Avoid telling children that “we are all the same.” Everyone is different in their own special way. Kids need to appreciate differences in others.
6. Create situations where children interact with children from different cultures and backgrounds.
7. Teach children to use “frown power.” If they hear a peer saying something rude about another person, they are to look at the person and frown. It lets the rude person know that their remarks are unwanted.
8. Don’t always focus on differences. Have children identify similarities in others.