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**Commitment to Character Education at Nina Harris ESE Center**

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Your child is involved in learning-activities designed to develop good character and empower young people to make good choices for themselves. He or she has been working on “**Citizenship”** the entire month of November. Your reinforcement with these activities at home will support our overall program.

This month we learned about **Citizenship**.

At Nina Harris, we define cooperation as:

**“Being involved in service, school and community.”**

**Here are some things you can do to support learning about citizenship.**

* **Set a good example for the children in your life.** You are your child’s first teacher and your children watch everything you do. If you take time and to help a neighbor with yard work, your children can assist by bagging leaves or raking with child sized tools. Help those less fortunate than you.
* **Teach children where to place litter in their home and in public.** Talk about the pride you feel when your town or city is neat and clean. Take your child on a walk and carry a trash bag to dispose of garbage you might find. Discuss the fact that littering is against the law and that there is a consequence for those who break the law.
* **Teach your child about public service officials.** Visit your fire hall or police station. Meet a real officer! Discuss the job that firemen and policemen do. Encourage pretend play by providing pretend mail that needs to be delivered, a police whistle or badge, or the hat for a fire fighter.
* **Expose your children to your community** through visits to parks, recreation areas, local stores and neighborhood visits. Your child will learn that the world is bigger than their home and that they have a connection to the outside world.
* **Discuss the reason for rules at home, school, day care and other places.** Children need to learn that the entire world has a set of rules and that rules help keep us safe.
* **Fly the American Flag.** Have your child count flags as you travel in the car. Talk about the stars and stripes and what they stand for. Explore [activities that involve our flag](http://www.pbs.org/americaresponds/theamericanflag.html). Plan and make a red, white and blue snack or dessert with your child.

**Attend a public meeting with your child**; take him with you to the voting booth; talk about local issues from the newspaper that affect your family; or volunteer to do community service.

**http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/teaching\_citizenship\_to\_preschool\_children\_is\_important\_for\_character\_build**

**Remember at Nina Harris: Every student matters and every moment counts.**

**Here is a list of book suggestions to read about citizenship:**

*A Very Important Day* by Maggie Rugg Herold

*The Gettysburg Address*, illustrated by Michael McCurdy

*My Fellow Americans: A Family Album* by Alice Provensen.

Being a good citizen by Mary Small and Stacey Previn

So you want to be President by Judith St. George

Officer Buckles and Gloria By Peggy Rathman