****

**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 “**Kindness”** the entire month of December. Your reinforcement with these activities at home will support our overall program.

This month we learned about **Kindness**.

At Nina Harris, we define Kindness as:

**“Being nice and considerate towards others.”**

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

Read books about Kindness. Specifically point out in the book what an act of kindness is.

Model kindness to your child. In addition, be sure to point out what it is you are doing that shows the trait of kindness.

Teaching about manners is an act of kindness. If you teach your child to say, please and thank you are teaching them to be kind.

Students with a limited vocabulary can generate kindness with a smile or a high five to the person they are thanking.

Create a kindness wall in your home. Post words that are about kindness and times that your student has shown kindness.

Ask your child each day to tell you 1 thing they did that was kind.

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

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

*A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Philip Stead

*Hey, Little Ant* by Philip and Hannah Hoose

*How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends?* by Jane Yolen

*How Kind* by Mary Murphy

*The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney

*The Mine-O-Saur* by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen

*Stone Soup* by Jon J. Muth

*Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

*Toot & Puddle* by Holly Hobbie

*All Families Are Special* by Norma Simon

*The Ant Bully* by John Nickle

*Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson

*Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud

*Horace and Morris But Mostly Dolores* by James Howe

*The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein

*The Golden Rule* by Ilene Cooper; illustrated by Gabi Swiatowska

*Kindness Is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler* by Margery Cuyler

*Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson

*Prince William* by Gloria Rand

*When Sophie Gets Angry–Really, Really Angry* by Molly Bang

*Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox

*Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* by Eileen Spinelli

*The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles

*Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco

*Bluish* by Virginia Hamilton

*Hanna’s Suitcase* by Karen Levine

*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

*Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together* by Herb Shoveller