

From our Center to your Home Love never fails. I Corinthians 13:8



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Dear families, Hope you all had a great time with families and friends during Christmas and New Years time. We at CDC pray and believe that you all will have a great year filled with God's goodness, protection,

love, health and prosperity in all that you do. During the early months of the Year, we at CDC usually emphasize on family and focus on importance of family on the child's life. Curriculum and activities the children do during this season are family oriented. As we are going to celebrate Valentine's day during the month of February, we focus on "LOVE" in the family. How do we show this important virtue "LOVE" to our children? Our work as men and women raising children is important because our influence lasts a lifetime. But what are the most important gifts we give our children? Self-love, self-concept, and self-esteem. Self-love is the most essential of all skills. It is a concept children learn from the way parents (and other adults) treat them. Children first need to know that they are loved and accepted for who they are. With this as a basis, their natural impulse is to take that love and learn to contribute it to the world in constructive ways. It is not difficult then; to see that self-love is the best gift we can give our children. Self-love in children, as in adults, means liking themselves, enjoying themselves, and accepting themselves. Children need to know that although parents may not always like what they do, or have done, we still like and love them. There is a great difference between rejecting a child's behavior and rejecting the child. Help the child understand that he or she is a human being and as a human being he or she will make mistakes. Our goal is to help children learn from those mistakes and assist them in making corrections. This helps the child to love others, forgive others and treat others with

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respect. **Self-concept** is the image we have of ourselves. It means liking ourselves just the way we are. To teach children about self-concept, we must look at them without labels or comparisons. If a child is taller than most of the other children in his or her class, he or she may feel awkward. However, if the child is taught that his or her height is an asset of which to be proud, the child will grow up with respect for him- or herself and others. There are things about every child that are unique. It is by zeroing in on each special quality whether it is their willingness to let someone else ride their trike, their whimsical sense of humor, or their ability to carry a tune—that we give children a positive sense of self. Children take great pride and delight in the knowledge that there is no one exactly like them in the world. Share a child's uniqueness by looking into his or her eyes with a smile that says, "You are special. I love to be with you!"

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Self-esteem is "the sense of being lovable and capable." When these two qualities are in tune, a child has high self-esteem. Children learn about themselves and know themselves only by reflection. For the first important years of their lives, parents are the major influence providing this reflection to the child. Later on, teachers and friends in addition to parents provide this reflection. As parents and caregivers, we want to make everything right and wonderful for our children. We want to eliminate conflict, disappointment, rejection, and failure from their lives. But we need to remember that life is a process. Children will encounter conflict, disappointment, rejection, and failure as they move through life. It is by giving them a strong sense of self-love, self-concept, and self-esteem that we prepare them to learn what life is all about. Let us love our children as God loved us. This is our most important task as parents and caregivers for children.

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To celebrate families, during this time, you will receive a heart shaped card from your child's teacher. Please decorate it with your family pictures and write 1 statement on LOVE for your child. This will be displayed on your child's classroom bulletin board. Return this card by February 7th.

Those that require tuition statements for Tax purposes, please let the front office know ASAP.

Hadassah Ratna Raj, PhD **Director ICCDC**

Jan / Feb 2025

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MAdalyn Friends

Creative ways to say "I love you" to your kids on Valentine's day

- 1. Leave a note for your child in an unexpected place Tape a note to the ceiling above his/her bed "I love you"
- 2. Send a special e-mail message -Your child will love an email from you telling her about the website you discovered that's devoted to her favorite television show, hockey team or musical group. (Naturally, you'll want to check the site out thoroughly before you give it the highly coveted Parental Stamp of Approval.)
- **3.** Put a prize in his lunch bag -Tuck a sticker or other inexpensive trinket in his lunch bag to let him know that you're always thinking about him. Hockey cards, gum or a miniature deck of cards are just a few of the many possibilities.
- **4. Be interested in what she/he likes -**Spend an hour listening to her favorite music or watching her favorite TV show with her. Your child will appreciate the fact that you're willing to take time to find out more about something that's important to her.
- **5. Play kid games -**Offer to play his/her favorite video game or board game. Then pull out a classic board game such as Monopoly or Scrabble that you enjoyed playing as a kid. It's a great way to get to know one another better.
- **6. Plan a family movie night** -You get to pick one movie at the video store and your child gets to pick one movie. The only ground rule is that you each pick a movie the other person will enjoy.
- 7. Get moving -Find ways of being physically active together. Bundle up and go for a walk or put on some music and boogie. (Close the drapes so that your child won't have to worry about her friends catching her dancing with her parents!)
- **8.** Start a special tradition at dinner -For example, everyone at the table has to think of one thing they like or admire about each other person. (Don't expect miracles from siblings: be happy with even the most watered-down compliments!)
- 9. Serve an "I Love You" cake for dessert -You can either use a heart-shaped pan or both a square pan and a round pan. (You simply cut the round cake in half and line the two halves on the circle up so that they are touching two adjacent sides of the square. Once you ice the cake, no one will be able to see the seams.)

10. Think year-round

Vow to find ways to say "I Love You" to your child 365 days a year-not just on Valentine's Day. That's the greatest gift of all!

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