

Virtues in Community – Character Education

Session 10: Sunday 9:15 – 10:45 AM
Presented by: Anne Smith, Denise Cesena, Maureen Perez

This session takes an in-depth look at primary and early elementary children in relation to the intrinsic use of virtues. We will present a simple, *powerful* method for bringing out a child's natural use of virtues. This method is a very effective character-building tool, and can easily be adopted as an integral part of your classroom, school, and home communities.

Opening Activity

Creating a Circle of Light – An activity using imagination

A cornerstone for recognizing the good within each child: This activity contacts each child's heart as they associate the virtues they imagine with the resulting positive feeling (their inside light). Attendees will participate in the activity, followed by a brief discussion of the depth and effectiveness of this activity.

Presentation

Building the Use of Virtues in Your Community

- The theory of teaching virtues
 - A brief overview
- The methodology
 - The Catch My Light! Process: Utilizing the Montessori 3 period lesson, we will present the four major steps for bringing out a child's natural inclination to use virtues.
 - The key to success
 - A saturated approach for higher integration
- A study of "intrinsic reward"

Conclusion

- Personal experience
 - A Montessori Directress' experience
 - An Assistant Teacher's experience
 - A parent's experience
- Practical application
 - How to integrate the Catch My Light! Process into your school and home communities.

Closing Activity

Expanding the Circle of Light – An activity using real life experiences

A cornerstone for building a community based in virtues: This activity builds awareness of the virtues that are being practiced and the impact this has on individuals and communities.

Question & Answer