

Raising Kids with a Global Mindset

As children enter college or the workforce, they meet people from different cultures, countries, age groups and educational backgrounds. Working in harmony will require more than just awareness of our interconnected global world.

To thrive in today's global community, our kids need special skills and attitudes. Authorities expect them to be able to work peacefully and effectively with diverse groups. Grade schools and high schools teach some of these skills and attitudes. They expect parents to also teach them in the home.

The Internet helps committed parents teach diversity and expose their kids to diverse experiences. Parents and kids just need a willingness to learn.

Help prepare your grade-schooler to become "culturally intelligent".

- **Celebrate your family's culture and traditions.** Encourage older family members to share their stories and historical events with your child – often.
- **Keep globes and maps where your child can see them.** Use them to find places you hear about in the



news. Mark these places. At the end of each year, count your marked locations. Review your new knowledge.

- **Select a country, and learn about the culture.** Find pictures of the people. Discuss their lifestyle, housing, and landscapes. Prepare their food. Plan a summertime virtual vacation. Pick a different country each summer.
- **Expose your child to the music and art of other countries and cultures.** Check out library books, videos and CDs. Attend art exhibits. Use Internet music sources to enjoy their music. Pandora is a free music source.
- **Explore your community.** Attend cultural events. Visit museums, memorials and cultural centers. Try ethnic grocery stores.
- **Read a variety of books and magazines about places and people.** Develop empathy. Discuss your reading as a tool to develop empathy. Ask, "What do the people or characters feel?" "What do you feel about their lifestyle?"
- **Browse kid-friendly websites.** My Wonderful World, Time for Kids and BBC Newsround are examples of such sites.
- **Encourage your child to learn another language.**
- **Model respect for others.** Let your child see you interact with people that differ from you. Reach out to neighbors that differ from your family.

*Brought to you by Parent Help Line at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital
to help keep kids safe, healthy and happy.*



Call the Parent Help Line. Help is just a phone call away.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
www.parenthelpline.org



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