

# Q&A TEACHING VALUES AT HOME AND IN PRESCHOOL.



**Q How do I use daily situations as teachable moments to help my child learn values such as kindness and respect?**

Children learn best through play as they develop an understanding of concepts and ideas through observing, exploring, and receiving feedback from their parents. You can weave values into the day-to-day life of your child through several ways:

- > **Playtime.** At the playground, let your child know that waiting for their turn at the slide is a way of showing respect. When your child watches a cartoon where the character helps a friend in need, point out this is an example of being kind and compassionate.
- > **Storytime.** When reading a book, ask questions such as “When did the character not show honesty?” or “What would happen if the character continued to show kindness?”. Link the questions to real-life scenarios so that your child can apply the values in their daily interactions. *Choo Choo Train* ([www.childrensociety.org.sg/choo-choo-train-resource](http://www.childrensociety.org.sg/choo-choo-train-resource)) is a series of stories aimed at inculcating good values in five- and six-year-olds. Each story ends with a set of guided questions and recommended activities.
- > **Role-modelling.** Set a good example to your child by displaying positive values in your daily life. Be intentional in explaining to them what value was displayed and why it is important.

**Q What are some considerations for integrating character-building into the preschool curriculum?**

We want our children to grow up as socially responsible citizens. To do that, they need character-building opportunities and values education from a young age.

Some factors to consider in curriculum planning:

- 1. Nurture positive teacher-child relationships.** This will help children be open and receptive to learning. Create opportunities to help them sort out their emotions and thinking through interactions. Respect their ideas and acknowledge their feelings.
- 2. Tell stories or role-play.** This gives children a safe space to explore and discuss negative values and practise being polite, kind, considerate, respectful, etc.
- 3. Seize teachable moments.** During pick-up and drop-off times, greeting friends and teachers teaches respect. Helping to put away toys or materials after an activity nurtures a sense of responsibility.
- 4. Get parents involved.** Encourage parents to take their child on neighbourhood walks, where they can learn to greet the elderly and appreciate the work done by our community workers. Invite parents to document their child in action (e.g. when helping with household chores) to reinforce positive values, and for the child to share during circle time or ‘Show & Tell’ sessions.



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**CHUA LAY MUI** is an ECDA Fellow and the Executive Principal of PCF Sparkletots. She believes mentorship works both ways to empower and enrich both mentee and mentor, and that this leads to greater satisfaction and fulfilment for the EC profession in fostering the growth and well-being of each child.