

What Kids Can Learn From Volunteering



The Giving Tree

There is one sure path to making sure that you end up with a child who becomes a socially responsible adult. Teaching them the importance of volunteering! If volunteering begins at an early age, it can become part of everyday life.

It can teach them:

A sense of responsibility - By volunteering, kids and teens learn what it means to make and keep a commitment. They learn how to be on time for a job, do their best, and be proud of the results. They also learn that ultimately, we're all responsible for the well-being of our communities.

That one person CAN make a difference - A wonderful, empowering message for kids is that they're important enough to have an impact on someone or something else.

The benefit of sacrifice - By giving up a toy to a less fortunate child, a child learns that sometimes it's good to sacrifice. Cutting back on recreation time to help clean up a beach tells kids that there are important things besides ourselves and our immediate needs.

Job skills - Community service can help young people decide on their future careers. Learning to work as a team member, taking on leadership roles, setting project goal; these are all skills that can be gained by volunteering and will serve kids well in any future career.

How to fill idle time wisely - If kids aren't involved in traditional after-school activities, community service can be a wonderful alternative.

Appreciation - Volunteerism enables children to learn to appreciate what they have, to make more sacrifices and be kind to others.

Fosters empathy - Empathy is the most critical disposition for responding to the needs of others. We need to be able to imagine what other people may be going through or feeling.

Volunteering... community service... giving back to others. It's important and feels good! Happy giving!