



Wee Learners(4 - 5 years): 9 Ways To Teach Your Child About Charity

Inspired Giving. Charity and the spirit of giving have been elevated to a new level in the past few years.

Many parents are using the stories in the news as an opportunity to help children learn about charity and the importance of reaching out to others in their time of need. They have allowed their children to witness turning the pain and grief of unimaginable loss into a time of extending love and compassion to unknown people half way around the world.

To help your children acquire the habit of charity, consider implementing the strategies as a family.

- 1. Donate clothes.** Periodically go through your closets picking out clothes you haven't worn in a while, which can be given to the Salvation Army or Goodwill for distribution to the needy. Encourage your children to do the same. Allow them to select which clothes or toys they wish to donate. The value of this activity is diminished greatly if you go through their closets for them without their presence. For maximum benefit, get your children involved in choosing the appropriate items. Take your children with you when you drop the items off at the charitable destinations.
- 2. Help neighbours.** Regularly engage in a service-oriented project. Rake the leaves or shovel the snow of an elderly couple. Deliver baked goods to local homeless shelters or senior homes.
- 3. Give blood.** Take your children with you so they see you as a model for giving. Talk to them about why you choose to donate blood and what you hope it will accomplish by doing so.
- 4. Make birthdays charitable.** Set up birthday parties as a time for giving to others. At your child's first school-age birthday party, ask guests to bring a gift of a book (new or used) to be donated to a local charity. Talk to your child about the books they have and about children who have no books. Explain that one way to celebrate a birthday would be to give to those who have less.
- 5. Include pets.** At regular intervals, buy dog or cat food and take it to the humane society. Allow your children to spend some time with the recipients of the gift.
- 6. Deliver nutrition.** Build food baskets around the holidays and give them to a family in need. Involve your children in selecting canned goods, fruit, and other treats to include. Decorate the gift package and deliver it together, as a family.
- 7. Change for a difference.** Create a charity jar to be used by the family when allowances are distributed. Invite children to share some of their allowance with others through donating to the jar. As the jar fills, decide as a family where to contribute the contents. You may choose to save a whale, buy gloves for needy children, or contribute to a cancer charity among others. Read about various charities on the Internet and share this information with your children to help them make an informed decision.
- 8. Help Elders.** Do things for the elderly that they have trouble doing for themselves. Pick up sticks in your neighbour's yard after a big windstorm, shovel the snow, etc.

Wee Learners(4 - 5 years): 9 Ways To Teach Your Child About Charity



9. Pitch In. Encourage your children to pitch in around the house with various chores, extend this activity to your neighbours (especially if they are seniors).

By implementing some of these ideas or others like them, you will be teaching your children that charity is not reserved only for emergencies. You will be helping them appreciate that reaching out to others in need is a way of life, rather than a moment in time when a catastrophic disaster occurs. Remember, while you are giving to others, you are giving your children important messages about your beliefs concerning the spirit of giving.

Source: <https://bit.ly/2rf9cVR>