



# MARY GORDON

President and Founder  
Roots of Empathy

“It may seem like an ambitious undertaking to introduce elementary-school children to neuroscience, but Roots of Empathy’s approach to parenting is grounded in an understanding of human development that recognizes the critical links between cognitive and emotional growth as the brain develops. The benefits for the children in the classroom are multilayered, immediate and far-reaching. In observing how a baby learns, the children gain insights about themselves and their own individual learning styles. They are also developing a wonder and respect for the complex wiring that develops in the brain as a result of apparently simple everyday experiences – the concept that love grows brains.”

# Alison Park Public School

Volunteer instructor Lorraine Reimann has been working with Mrs. Rodenberg’s grade 2/3 class. Baby Adriane has been the “teacher” with the help of mom Amy. Students have become completely engaged with Adriane’s development. One of the themes of Roots of Empathy is Safety. Students learn the important aspects of a safe environment for a baby as they get older and learn to roll over, reach and crawl. Parent volunteers discuss the steps they have taken at home to ensure their baby’s safety. Students learn that babies in the womb can be harmed by alcohol and smoking. Discussions also focus on the importance of keeping themselves and others safe, including a review of safety/danger symbols.



# Manchester Public School

Roots of Empathy volunteer instructor Nonie McQuaid has helped students learn about infant development, infant safety, emotions and caring for others. Baby Clara and her mom Tatiana have joined Mrs. Huynh's grade 4 class once per month. Throughout the Roots of Empathy lessons students have learned about Clara's temperament.



The individual temperament traits of the baby provoke discussion around the unique traits of each student that affect everything they do. Having a greater understanding of temperament helps students to understand and value differences. Who we are is also associated with our family, our cultural and linguistic heritage and our traditions.



LYLE S. HALLMAN  
FOUNDATION



Are you a proud parent with a baby who will be 2 – 4 months old in October?

You and your baby could be a Roots of Empathy family!

**For further information contact:**

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