



Roots of Empathy

Racines de l'empathie

June 2011

MARY GORDON

President and Founder
Roots of Empathy

“The end of the year wishes the children make for the baby take them beyond empathy to active thinking and planning for another person’s well-being and happiness; these wishes put them on the road to altruism. The concrete ties they have developed with the baby connect children in a more substantial way with the future they are imagining. When they are treated as thinking citizens and active stakeholders in their future, their capacity to see themselves as people who can change their world and who can challenge injustice and cruelty is heightened. The seeds that grow into altruistic behaviour are planted.”

What Roots of Empathy Can Teach the World

Roots of Empathy programs have drawn to a close for this year. We want to extend very special thanks to:

The 21 volunteer instructors who have very capably facilitated the 37 classroom sessions.

The 37 volunteer families who have shared their children’s first year with the students.

The 900 students who enthusiastically participated in the Roots of Empathy program.

The 19 school principals and staff who welcomed the volunteers into their schools and embraced the Roots of Empathy program.

The funders whose support and generosity have made all of this possible.

Roots of Empathy Students said...

“I’m me and that’s what matters”

“To learn about feelings, how to care for a baby” • “I learned to be respectful” • “Don’t make fun of other people” • “Do not shake a baby” • “To teach everyone to care about people” • “Not to bully” •

“Not to be mean to anyone” • “By helping other people by showing people what other people feel” • “How to express your feelings and how to take care of other people” • “It can teach people how to be responsible” • “That we all have feelings” • “Violence is bad” • “How feelings work” • “How to make the world a better place” • “I learned about my feelings on sad and happy” •

“That we are all different but still the same”

“It can teach the world that bullying is not funny or cool” • “How to care for others and respect how they feel” • “It can tell the world what is right and wrong” • “That all humans are the same and to treat other people the way you want to be treated” • “Show everyone how to talk about their feelings” • “Everyone should learn empathy” • “To not smoke if you are

“That being a parent is not as easy as you think”

pregnant” • “Roots of Empathy can teach the world about caring and loving” • “I learned that I don’t need to be afraid” • “Roots of Empathy can teach the world about other people’s feelings and about how to feel good about yourself” •

“Roots of empathy can teach the world to make earth a better place”



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Chalmers St. Public School Celebrates Their Roots of Empathy Babies



Baby Aiden visited with mom Angela



Mom Alison, baby Blaine and Grandmother Elizabeth. Volunteer instructor Jennifer Boyer taught four Roots of Empathy classes.



Baby Ethan visited with mom Amanda



Mom Yvonne and baby Kaitlyn



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!

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