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# Tidbits

Early Childhood Education Newsletter of the Nebraska District LCMS

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This month I am sharing excerpts from an article written by Kathy Schamber the early childhood consultant for the Southern LCMS District. Kathy teaches at Baton Rouge Lutheran School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## **The Fruit of the Spirit is . . . Peace and Patience**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is not law."  
Galatians 5:22-23*

It is important to pray for **patience** for yourself and **peace** for your classroom.

My statement of philosophy that I publish for parents in my orientation packet and summarize for them on our mandatory classroom orientation evening is: ***We create a safe, peaceful environment where children can trust each other and me, and feel free to "risk" trying and learning.***

It takes a while to create that safe, **peaceful** environment each year. I tell other early childhood teachers that we have to be **patient** each and every day and eventually things will "fall into place" and everyone will know "what to do" and the teachers can actually smile and tell me they are enjoying their days!

Little did I know that our **peace** and **patience** would be especially challenged by hurricanes Gustav and Ike!! Starting and stopping so many times based on the availability of power, missing nine days of school after only being there for three weeks, soothing anxieties of young children whose families' lives were in

differing stages of chaos tried everyone's **patience**. We needed to be the **peaceful**, secure, stable place that they could count on.

But, these external "storms" aren't the only ones that disrupt the **peace** in the classrooms and centers we serve, and try the **patience** of even the most loving and caring teachers and directors. We often don't even know the burdens and secrets that even our young children come to us with each day. If only we could see inside their little hearts and minds as easily as looking at a radar screen for the weather forecast and understand the turmoil that causes many of the misbehaviors and attitudes!

Just as we have to prepare for weather emergencies, I suggest that we need to be prepared ahead of time for **peace** and **patience** emergencies.

**From  
Eunice's  
Desk:**



# Peace and Patience

Practicing for weather and other emergencies is part of our regular monthly routine, and I would propose that regularly practicing these suggestions could help us be better prepared in our daily faith walk as well.

- **Pray** for extra measures of both **peace** and **patience** each day. (Consider sitting in your children's chairs and pray for each individual student, or look at the pictures on their cubbies as you pray for them).
- **Post** Bible verses in key locations where you can see them often throughout the day to remind you of your focus.
- **Communicate** with parents and work closely with them to better understand their child and solve problems together.
- **Seek** professional help for children unable to handle anger, or other emotional issues that you are not qualified to handle alone.
- **Realize** that it will take time for children who've come from homes where yelling or physical punishment is often the main form of discipline to respond to a calmer, gentler tone in your classroom. (I've even had parents tell me that I would need to hit their child to make him/her listen and obey! Of course that led to some impromptu parent teacher conferences on the spot)!! I use a wonderful video titled **Mirrors** that helps parents "see" what they look and sound like when dealing with their children and how it affects their self-esteem.
- **Read** professionally and attend seminars dealing with children's developmental issues. (Dr. Becky Bailey is one of my personal favorites on the topic of a **peaceful** climate)
- **Share** articles and resources with parents.
- **Offer** parenting classes or speakers to help parents grow in their skills, and thereby become more able partners with you for their child's benefit.
- **Consider** using the CPH **Getting Along** curriculum in your school or center. The skills the children learn to use can be naturally incorporated throughout the day, and are reinforced by the next teacher.
- **Advocate** for those children you suspect are coming from an abusive situation. You must document and stay in close contact with your director/principal and then report to the proper authorities if you feel compelled to. We cannot let children suffer if we know of a way we can help.
- **Visit** other classrooms and watch other teachers in action and take note of good models and practices that you feel would help you feel more **patient** and **peaceful** in your own situation. Ask for suggestions and tips that have helped them.

As we continue to celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace, I pray that your lives will be filled with His gifts of peace and patience!



## Events-2011

National Lutheran Schools Week  
Administrators' /ECE Conference  
Worship Conference  
Educators' Conference

All Schools  
The Leadership Center, Aurora  
St. John Seward  
Christ Lutheran, Lincoln

March 6-12  
April 14-15  
July 27-29  
October 20-21

[www.seward2011.org](http://www.seward2011.org)