

WEEK 18 Respecting Differences



Dear Parent/Guardian,

For Your Heart

Young children who develop the ability to look at others with the eyes of their hearts won't allow differences to become obstacles in getting to know and love those with disabilities. This week, first graders are learning the following:

- What it means to have a disability
- That we have more in common with those who have disabilities than we have differences
- To treat those with disabilities the same way we want to be treated

Wise Ol' Wilbur is reminding students of his Words of Wisdom:

*Friends may come in all looks and smarts;
What matters most is the size of their hearts.*

For the Heart of Your Child

Here are a few ideas to support your child's understanding and appreciation of differences in others:

- Choose one of the books below to read with your child.
 - *Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus (Harper Collins, 1994)
 - *Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and His Wheelchair* by James Riggio Heelan (Peachtree Publishers, 2005)
 - *When I Grow Up* by Candri Hodges (Jason and Nordic, 1994)
 - *Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability* by Pat Thomas (Barron's, 2002)
- Remind your child of the Golden Rule – to treat others the way you want to be treated. Teach your child to acknowledge individuals with disabilities the same way they would acknowledge anyone, and allow your child to politely ask questions of a person with a disability.

From Our Hearts to Yours,



PS Don't forget to ask your child to explain UNDERSTANDING and ACCEPTANCE.

UNDERSTANDING—Accepting others
for who they are

ACCEPTANCE—Treating everyone I meet
with respect, even when
they are different from me

