

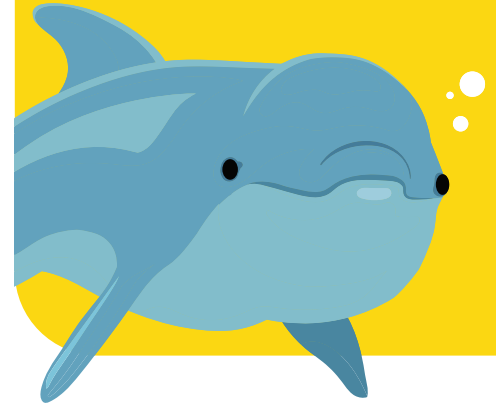
december 2021

This month, we're looking for ways to use our hands for good! We're teaching kids to notice when someone needs our help, and then stepping up to do it. Helping out a neighbor, a friend at school, or a family member are all great ways to show...

SERVICE:

Lending a hand to help someone else.

Service DECEMBER 2021



SAY IT:

Service means lending a hand to help someone else.

KNOW IT:

ASK A KID:

- Has anyone ever helped you out when you were in need?
- Think of a time when you noticed someone in your class or at your school needed something. It might have been school supplies, new shoes, or a snack for snack time. Did you see anyone show compassion toward that student? Maybe a teacher or other school staff member helped out with that need. Maybe next time it could be you.

ASK A GROWN UP:

- How does it feel to provide for a need for someone else?
- What are some opportunities to serve in your life right now? What are some ways you served others as a child?
- Share some examples of service that you have experienced in your lifetime.

SEE IT:

Each year local churches and other organizations engage in a project called Operation Christmas Child. This is where people pack shoeboxes filled with hygiene items, toys and school supplies to be sent all over the world to children in need. This is a great opportunity to share love and lend a hand to someone in need. View the video below to find out more about this great project and its impact on children all over the world.

<https://video.samaritanspurse.org/the-great-commission-in-action>

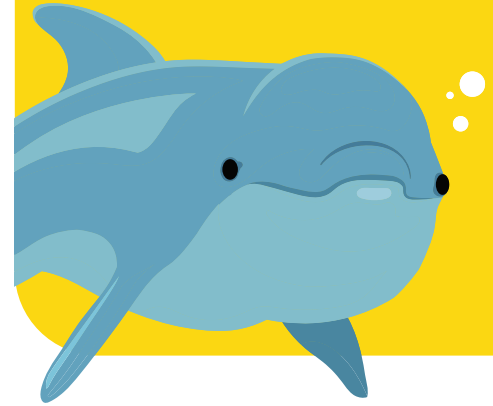
BE IT:

Take some time this month to evaluate the needs of people in your life. One night a week, sit down as a family and identify people at school, at work, at practice or even in your own home that have a need. Consider and discuss as a family what can be done about that need the following week and set out to do something about it.

PHASE

Service

DECEMBER 2021



By the time kids hit upper elementary, they begin to realize their first major crisis: **Friendship.**

This isn't just something that happens to our fourth and fifth graders. Believe it or not, research is beginning to show that by kindergarten many kids are testing the power of their influence and seeking connections with friends at any cost.

Meaning, as soon as they become aware there are other people in the world besides them, they start making decisions based on the sort of friends they want to attract.

Here are a few ways you can help your elementary kids develop friendships.

- Help them develop self-confidence.
- Widen the circle of people around them to include adults you trust.
- Ask questions about what's happening in their friendships.
- Don't freak out! Every Phase is new for your child and you as a parent, so there will be some bumps in the road.

So don't miss it. Developing friendships is a part of being a kid, and each one is learning as they go.

december 2021

SERVICE // DOLPHIN // YELLOW

Among the most intelligent animals on earth, dolphins work together in their pods and support each other.

Like whales, dolphins are cetaceans – marine mammals that surface to breathe air and give birth to live young. There are 42 species of dolphins and seven species of porpoises (smaller and chunkier in appearance). Orcas (killer whales) are the largest members of the dolphin family, despite the word “whale” in their nickname. Orcas are the only members of the dolphin family to live in the Arctic and Antarctic.

People are often familiar with Atlantic bottlenose dolphins because these animals have long been featured in aquariums and marine parks. Bottlenose dolphins are six to 12 feet long and weigh 400 to 800 pounds. They’ve been studied for their abilities to mimic, or copy, humans and to learn a variety of communication systems.

Dolphins have been well documented not only helping their own, but apparently offering aid to humans in trouble, as when they’ve carried an injured swimmer to the surface for air. They’ve also been observed forming a circle around human swimmers when a shark is in the vicinity, and in at least one case, “leading” a group of researchers to a person in real trouble far from shore.

While dolphins sometimes interact with humans in the wild, experts caution that dolphins that become dependent on food tossed to them by boaters, for example, can alter their natural behaviors and risk illness or even death. That’s why in the United States, federal law prohibits the feeding of wild dolphins.

SERVICE: *Lending a hand to help someone else*



Dolphins work together and sometimes even offer help to humans.

december 2021

SERVICE // DOLPHIN // YELLOW

A primary color, yellow offers sunny liveliness but can also fade into the background next to bolder colors. An important symbolic color in many religious traditions, yellow has represented wealth, health, and wisdom. It's an optimistic color. Pay attention on the road, though – yellow signs are helpful warnings. Round yellow signs signal railroad crossings; diamond-shaped signs warn of hazards, and five-sided (school-shaped) signs mark school zones. The yellow color in fall leaves, lemons, and daffodils is from carotenoids and is protective.

SERVICE: Lending a hand to help someone else