

Lindon

# CHARACTER

Connection



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Tolerance: Valuing Diversity

October 2012

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**“Our first line of defense in raising children with values is modeling good behavior ourselves. This is critical. How will our kids learn tolerance for others if our hearts are filled with hate? Learn compassion if we are indifferent?”**

**Fred G. Gosman, Author, “How to be a Happy Parent”**

My nephew met a Russian girl at their neighborhood park in Phoenix. The girl spoke only Russian and my nephew only English.

Chance quite naturally included the girl in the games he was playing with the other children. He saw her often at the park and enjoyed involving her in the fun. These preschoolers seemed quite oblivious to the obvious barriers to their friendship.

Chance attended Adrianna’s birthday party. My sister loved the experience of learning about the family’s background, eating their traditional foods, and playing traditional Russian games. Friendship grew in the face of diverse backgrounds, language and culture. The implications of acceptance on the playground for world peace and understanding are profound.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama says, “Whenever I meet people I always approach them from the standpoint of the most basic things we have in common. We each have a physical structure, a mind, emotions. We are all born in the same way, and we all die. All of us want happiness and do not want to suffer. Looking at others from this standpoint rather than emphasizing secondary differences such as the fact that I am Tibetan, or a different color, religion, or cultural background, allows me to have a feeling that I’m meeting someone just the same as me.”

From 1889 until his death in 1894, author Robert Louis Stevenson lived in Samoa. He was loved and respected by the Samoan people. On one occasion he traveled to Hawaii taking one of his Samoan servants along. One evening he was in a bar where a wealthy, successful American, learning of his identity wanted to speak with him and buy him a drink. Robert L. Stevenson agreed, bringing along his Samoan servant. The American was uncomfortable with having a “native” and a servant as their drinking companion. Robert L. Stevenson stood and said “If this bar is not good enough for my friend, it is not good enough for me.” He then left with his Samoan friend.

In our community we do an incredible job of taking care of our own. May we define “our own” in the light of the Master teacher’s tale of the Good Samaritan.

“Let our thoughts, our words, and deeds, ever be pure, kind and good. Let us live peaceably with each other, respecting one another in love. Let us see the good in our fellow man, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves.

*Thaylene Rogers*

*Lindon Resident  
(Excerpts from 2004 Lindon Character  
Connection)*

# Book List



White Dynamite and Curly Kidd  
by Bill Martin

Babushka Baba Yaga! by Patricia Polacco

So Far From The Sea by Eve Bunting

The Long March by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting



## Family Activities

–Retell the folk story of “Stone Soup.” Afterwards, let each family member add his favorite soup ingredient to a broth. *Talk about the flavor each ingredient adds and the value of variety.*

–Sing a song in unison. Sing it again, this time adding alto, tenor, and bass. *Talk about the richness of variety.*

–Give each person a different color of crayon. Have each family member use only his crayon as he draws a picture of a house with a sunset in the background. Admire the pictures. Next, have everyone draw the same picture, this time using all of the crayons. *How is variety the spice of life?*

–William Penn was born on October 14, 1644. He founded Pennsylvania and wanted its settlers to enjoy religious freedom, as well as personal and property rights. Although King Charles had granted this region to him, he also paid the Indians for this same land. In fact, because his dealings with the Indians were fair, they never attacked his colony. *How can we be more tolerant of those of differing religions, race, and abilities?*

## A Poem on Tolerance:

*This is a great poem to help us learn to value diversity and practice tolerance!*

If I knew you and you knew me--  
If both of us could clearly see,  
And with an inner sight divine  
The meaning of your heart and mine--  
I'm sure that we would differ less  
And clasp our hands in friendliness;  
Our thoughts would pleasantly agree  
If I knew you and you knew me.  
If I knew you and you knew me,  
As each one knows his own self, we  
Could look each other in the face  
And see therein a truer grace.  
Life has so many hidden woes,  
So many thorns for every rose;  
The "why" of things our hearts would see,  
If I knew you and you knew me.

By Nixon Waterman

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Tolerance includes:

\*Having a fair and objective attitude toward those whose opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality, etc., differ from one's own.

\*Acceptance, fairness, understanding, and overlooking the faults of others.

\*Open to differences, free of prejudice.

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*Lindon Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting volunteer or financial support.*

*If you can help please send contributions to:  
Lindon Character Connection c/o Lindon City  
100 North State St., Lindon, Utah 84042-1808 (You may also give your donation to any executive board member.)*

