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**Commitment to Character Education at Nina Harris ESE Center**

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Your child is involved in learning-activities designed to develop good character and empower young people to make good choices for themselves. He or she has been working on “**Cooperation”** the entire month of October. Your reinforcement with these activities at home will support our overall program.

This month we learned about **Cooperation**.

At Nina Harris, we define cooperation as:

**“Getting along with others and working together.”**

**Here are some things you can do to support learning about cooperation.**

**Create Roles –** Teach children about cooperation through group activities that require skills such as waiting, turn taking, and following directions.  Below are few fun ideas.

* ***Cooking –*** Small group cooking activities are a fun way to divide work and practice skills.  Have a written or pictorial recipe with ingredients and steps presented in order.  Assign roles to each child such as measuring the flour, counting the correct number of eggs, pouring the milk, greasing the pan, and stirring.  Children have to wait their turn, follow directions, and share responsibility for creating something they can enjoy later.
* ***Gardening –*** Whether potting seeds or planting flowers, children can have individual responsibilities such as digging holes, counting seeds, putting seeds in the holes, patting dirt over the seeds, and watering.  Gardening also provides the opportunity for continued cooperation and responsibility.  For example, assign children days of the week to water plants or weed the garden.

***Literacy –*** Paired or small group writing assignments require children to share ideas and work together.  Set guidelines about each child’s specific role so they divide the task rather than having one child complete the majority of it.

**Remember at Nina Harris: Every student matters and every moment counts.**

**Here is a list of book suggestions to read about cooperation:**

 The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting

 Swimmy by Leo Lionni

 Mr. Grumpy’s Motor Car

**The Trumpet of the Swan,** E. B. White

**The Sign of the Beaver,** Elizabeth Speare

**Harry Potter,** J. K. Rowling WH F Row

**Stone Soup**, Marcia Brown

**The Patchwork Quilt**, Valerie Flourney

**Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel,** Virginia Burton

**The Little Red Hen,**

**The Doorbell Rang,** Pat Hutchins

**A Chair for My Mother**, Vera Williams

**The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Friends**, Stan and Jan Berenstain

**The Mitten**, Jan Brett

**Changes, Changes,** Pat Hutchins