



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

>>> FEBRUARY 2018

An effective family engagement system builds connections between home and school and is an essential component to meeting the needs of each child in your program.

## TIP#1: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is black history month. It's never too early to begin teaching children about acceptance and equality. Studying black history month in preschool is a good way to slowly introduce important subjects to young minds. Use the activities in this [article](#) to create a day or week in February centered around black history and awareness. It's also a great time to get families involved in your center activities. Most importantly its about teaching young children to respect and celebrate differences.



## TIP#2: LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH

February is "Library Lovers Month". Plan a trip to your local library or invite a librarian visit your students for story-time and ask the parents to participate. Or have parents visit the class and read their child's favorite book to the class. Organize a book drive for charity or a book-swap for center families and students.

## TIP#3: DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Plan a Family Night centered around dental health. Provide activities , discussion questions and parent handouts to educate families about oral health. Make the whole evening a Cavity Free Event try: • Serving tooth healthy foods and drinks. • Setting up Cavity Free Kids [art activities](#) for children. • Inviting a dentist, hygienist or come speak to families. • Providing brochures and a local dental resource list for families to take home. See more resources [here](#).



## TIP#4: RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY IS FEB. 17TH

The 17th of February in 2018 is a date to be kind because it's Random Acts of Kindness Day. It aims to encourage people for acts of goodness and kindness. Kindness is being friendly and polite to others, maybe doing something nice for them. See this [website](#) for ideas. During the month of February encourage families to post photos of them doing Acts of Kindness this month on your centers Facebook group. Don't have social media? Have parents email the photos and then print and post them on a bulletin board in your center. Maybe even create a kindness counter to track the number of acts of kindness your families are doing.

## TIP#5: CHINESSE NEW YEAR ON FEB. 26TH

Learning about how world cultures celebrate is an easy way to introduce different perspectives to kids. Invite parents to join in the celebration. Introduce the children to Chinese culture through food and multicultural art [lessons](#). Every year, on the last day of Chinese New Year, families from Taiwan to China place colorful lanterns outside their homes and launch them into the night sky. Each lantern corresponds to a particular wish the family has for the new year. Have families come to the center and [make paper lanterns](#) and write a wish with their child on their family lantern. Decorate the center with these lanterns for the month of February.



## TIP#6: VALENTINES DAY

Because Valentines Day is all about love, focus on celebrating FAMILY and SCHOOL FAMILY love. Embrace the spirit of Valentine's Day with promoting kindness and love and not just sweets and candy. Focus on friendship and how to treat others. Inspire students to speak kindly to one another, they will practice inviting friends to work together and engage in many activities that promote teamwork, kindness and taking turns. Encourage families to try something new and bring in non-food items so all kids can participate in the celebration, regardless of allergies, diet restriction and/or religion. But regardless please remind and post your snack policy to parents when bringing treats in to the center. It is the perfect opportunity to create more love in your family, not only between parent and child, but between siblings. Share this [resource](#) with your families for activities they can do at home.



## TIP#7: KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registrations are happening soon! Remind your families about this transition and provide resources for them. Find out when and what kids will be turning 5 and what school district they will be entering to provide them with dates and additional information. A successful adjustment to Kindergarten will often influence a child's perception, attitudes, and performance in subsequent school years. Plan a graduation for the students leaving your center and get families involved. Focus on the accomplishments the students made throughout the time at your center and the great things that are ahead. The graduation ceremony is designed to celebrate those things through a fun, relaxed, and simple preschool celebration. Watch is [video](#) to see how this school prepares children and families for the transition to kindergarten.

