



Children & The Elderly

Unit description: KidzCare's unit on *Children & The Elderly* will help your child begin to understand that some children have special needs, resulting from medical conditions or situations of homelessness, and that all children need to feel safe, loved and supported. This unique unit incorporates instruction on children in the hospital, children experiencing homelessness, and conflict resolution/kindness strategies. Some of the organizations we study will include The Children's Inn at NIH and Project Night Night. Our discussion of the elderly will include learning about active seniors and seniors needing assistance. We will talk about stereotypes and media portrayal of the elderly, and students will complete a take-home assignment about their own grandparents (or other elderly person in their family or community). Some of the organizations we study will include nursing homes, retirement communities, and Double Nickels Theatre Company. Our unit will conclude by reflecting on what children and the elderly have in common and what each generation can learn from the other.

A sense of intergenerational cooperation and learning will be developed in students as they discover the value in people of all ages. The KidzCare curriculum is also designed to help students develop a sense of gratitude.

Each class will include age-appropriate instruction on the topic of the day, plus a hands-on service project for your child to complete in class that will help your child feel a sense of empowerment and hope when learning about these difficult social issues.

Academic subject alignment: KidzCare's *Children & The Elderly* unit includes instruction that aligns with some of the academic curriculum objectives in the following areas:

- Social Studies-Peoples of the Nation and World (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 2.0)
- Social Studies-History (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 5.0)
- Social Studies-Social Studies Skills and Processes (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 6.0)
- English-General Reading Processes (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 1.0)
- English-Comprehension of Informational Text (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 2.0)
- English-Comprehension of Literary Text (Maryland State Curriculum Standard 3.0)

Service Learning Credit: Your child will receive 10 hours of service-learning credit for attending all sessions of the *Children & The Elderly* unit, and will receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of this unit. We encourage all students in KidzCare programs to set a goal of completing at least 50 hours of service between September and May, which will qualify them to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Eligibility to attend volunteer events: By registering for this unit, students will be eligible to attend all of KidzCare's one-time volunteer events that include issues relating to children or the elderly. Examples of such events include: visiting senior citizens at a retirement home, assisting with the Senior Olympics, decorating a room for a holiday or party at The Children's Inn at NIH, being involved in an inter-generational theatrical production with Double Nickels Theatre Company in Washington D.C., and others.