



Are You a Caring Kid?



photo courtesy USDA

Mini Idea:

Hang this issue up in your room to remind you to be thankful all year around!

We think a lot about what we're thankful for during the holiday season. Caring kids really care about the world around them and show it — not only by what they say, but by what they do.

When you show you care by doing good deeds, you develop good habits. You build good character. Caring will make the world around you a more interesting and pleasant place to be. How do you show you care?

I am thankful for my community. Because I care:

- I volunteer to help others.
- I adopt an area and help keep it clean.



I am thankful for my home. Because I care:

- I keep my room neat and tidy.
- I help inside and out to keep things in order.



I am thankful for my family. Because I care:

- I keep in touch with family members who are far away.
- I make an effort to get along with my brothers and sisters.



I am thankful for my body. Because I care:

- I exercise every day.
- I try to eat a wide variety of healthy foods.



I am thankful for my friends. Because I care:

- I play fairly.
- I introduce new kids to my friends.



I am thankful for our wildlife. Because I care:

- I watch wild animals from afar.
- I respect their habitat and pick up after myself.



I am thankful for my school. Because I care:

- I do my homework.
- I pay attention and contribute in class.



Write a check mark next to the ways you show your gratitude.

I am thankful for my country. Because I care:

- I obey the laws.
- I learn about how our government works.



I am thankful for my pets. Because I care:

- I help with their care.
- I spend time playing with them and giving them exercise.



I am thankful for clean water. Because I care:

- I conserve water whenever I can.
- I am careful not to litter or put chemicals down storm drains.



I am thankful for the clothes I wear. Because I care:

- I take good care of my clothes and shoes.
- I donate them to charity when they no longer fit.



Resources



At the library:

- "Thank You and Good Night" by Jon Gordon
- "Junie B. Jones #28: Turkeys We Have Loved and Eaten (and Other Thankful Stuff)" by Barbara Park

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of caring kids are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

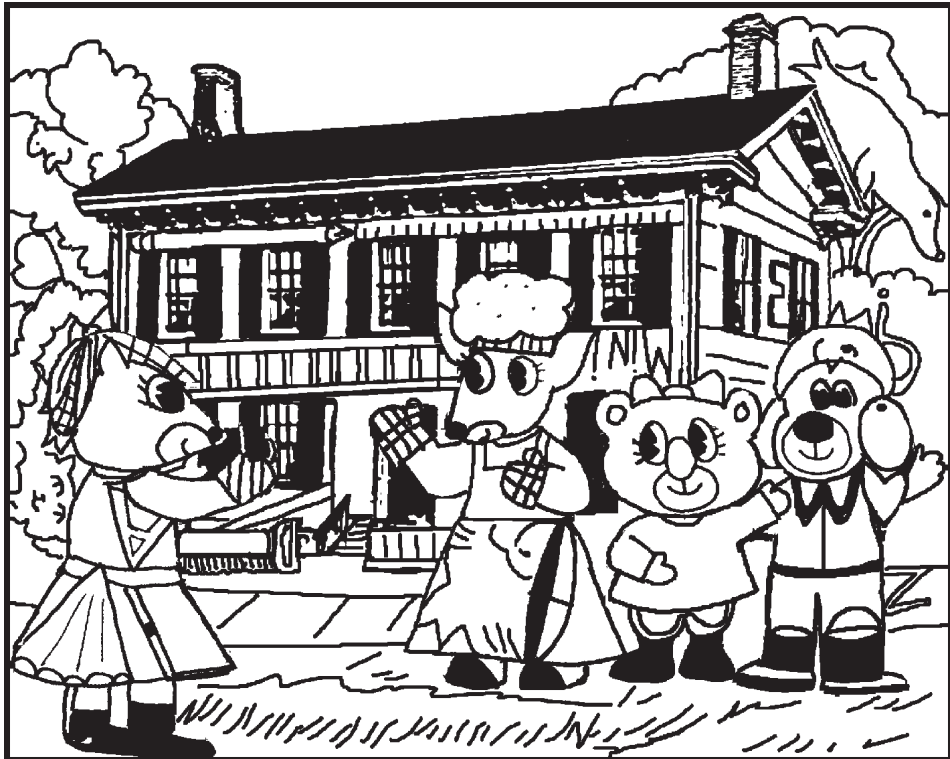


BODY, CARING, CLOTHES, COMMUNITY, COUNTRY, DEEDS, FAMILY, FRIENDS, GOOD, GRATITUDE, HABITS, HOLIDAYS, HOME, INTERESTING, KID, PETS, PLEASANT, SCHOOL, THANKFUL, WILDLIFE, WORLD.

S Y U S Y A D I L O H Q X D I
T T N A S A E L P A O T N I D
E I N T E R E S T I N G B K E
P N J F A M I L Y H O M E M F
H U Y D O B G S E H T O L C I
A M D O O G R A T I T U D E L
B M W U T G Z F R I E N D S D
I O L O O H C S D L R O W L L
T C A R I N G Y R T N U O C I
S S D E E D T H A N K F U L W

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield, Illinois. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

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- fish • bucket • letter W • ruler • letter Z • book • muffin
- ladder • brush • man in the moon • letter E • pencil • two hearts
- question mark • word MINI • squirrel • letter A
- olive • sailboat • number 3 • cat • umbrella • seal • ear of corn

Mini Jokes



Ted: Why was the math book sad?

Tina: Because it had so many problems!

Eco Note



Pet and feral, or wild, cats in Australia are killing more than 1 million birds every day, researchers say. They believe that the cats are helping to destroy some native species of birds. Wild cats kill about 136 million birds each year, while pet cats kill about 61 million. Cats are not native to Australia; scientists aren't sure when they were brought to the island continent.

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For later:

Look through your newspaper for other things you might be thankful for. What other signs of caring do you see?

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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