Resources for Families

Web Sites

- **Raising a Socially Responsible Child: Part One** ([www.brighthorizons.com/growing/parent-webinar/social-responsibility](http://www.brighthorizons.com/growing/parent-webinar/social-responsibility)) shares practical advice on how social awareness develops as your child grows; discusses the role of the family, school and community in raising children; and provides steps that families can take together to make a difference in their communities and in the world today and tomorrow.

- **Parenting with Linda Mason: Raising a Socially Responsible Child** ([http://youtu.be/Z6aEHXSVjPc](http://youtu.be/Z6aEHXSVjPc)) offers more suggestions on encouraging social responsibility in your child from the co-founder of Bright Horizons and mother of three, Linda Mason.

- **The Bright Horizons Online Community** ([www.brighthorizons.com/community](http://www.brighthorizons.com/community)) provides a place for parents and educators to share ideas, get perspectives, and ask questions. Conversations cover parenting topics and advice spanning all ages of children.

- **The Volunteer Family Organization** ([www.thevolunteerfamily.org](http://www.thevolunteerfamily.org)) helps families find volunteer opportunities in their area and matches them with their interests.

- **Safe Kids USA** ([www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)) is a nationwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages 1 to 14. They educate families, provide safety devices to families in need and advocate for better laws to help keep children safe, healthy and out of the emergency room.

- **Toys for Tots** ([www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)) collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

- **Kids for Peace: Uplifting our World through Love and Action** is a website ([www.kidsforpeaceusa.org](http://www.kidsforpeaceusa.org)) created by a Harvard student and a Mom who was a teacher, who both care deeply about creating a better world. Kids for Peace sponsors **The Great Kindness Challenge** ([www.greatkindnesschallenge.org](http://www.greatkindnesschallenge.org)) an annual event that encourages all children to participate.

- **Pajama Program** ([www.pajamaprogram.org](http://www.pajamaprogram.org)) provides new pajamas and new books to children in need.

- **Toward a Better World** ([www.brighthorizons.com/education/betterworld.aspx](http://www.brighthorizons.com/education/betterworld.aspx)) is a Bright Horizons curriculum component that offers children an opportunity to broaden their social awareness and encourages caring, connection, and compassion for others.

- **Terracycle, Inc.** ([www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net)) Terracycle is an ecologically and socially responsible company that markets products made completely from trash. The company also markets a variety of products made fully from recyclables and has established multiple recycling options for organizations.
Resources for Families

- **Bright Horizons Foundation for Children** ([www.brighthorizonsfoundation.org](http://www.brighthorizonsfoundation.org)) is a nonprofit organization focused on brightening the lives of children, youth and families in crisis. Bright Spaces, the flagship program of the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children are warm, enriching playrooms in homeless shelters and other community agencies that give children and families in crisis a special place to play and learn.

- **Milestones Project** ([www.milestonesproject.com](http://www.milestonesproject.com)) provides an “Ethical Growth Chart” which depicts a child’s growth in caring and compassion, rather than inches. Other children’s resources available include the Milestones Project Pledge for parents and children to sign.

- **Project Linus** ([www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org)) provides love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children in need.

- **Heifer International** ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) helps communities end the cycle of hunger and poverty by developing sustainable food processes.

Books


Books For Children

- **Changing Places: A Kid’s View of Shelter Living** by Judy Wallace et al. Eight children, ages 6-13, describe what it is like to live in a homeless shelter.

- **Great Joy** by Kate DiCamillo. This is a sweet, simple Christmas tale of an organ grinder, his monkey and the little girl who worries over whether they have a place to go in a storm.

- **The Hundred Dresses** by Eleanor Estes. When Wanda, a poor immigrant from Poland, tells her classmates she has 100 dresses at home, the children taunt her. After the teasing forces her to leave the school, two classmates must deal with their guilt.
Resources for Families

- **My Teeth**, by Dr. Richard and Michele Steckel, photographers, created for the Milestones Project, www.milestonesproject.com. This delightful board book is filled with photographs of children’s faces from around the world and designed to introduce children to the beautiful diversity in their world as well as introduce early counting.

- **Whoever You Are**, by Mem Fox, illustrated by Leslie Staub, Libros Viajeros, 2007. A beautifully illustrated bilingual book that relays the message that no matter how different we all are, we are all the same in many ways...we all smile, laugh, hurt, cry, and experience joy, love, and pain the same way.

- **The Teddy Bear**, by David McPhail, a preschool Growing Readers Book of Excellence selection is an introduction for young children to homelessness and the development of compassion and giving.

- **Michael Recycle**, by Ellie Bethel, tells the story of boy superhero, Michael, who rushes to the rescue of a messy, garbage-filled town. The book also includes Go Green and recycling tips for children.

- **Miss Rumphius**, by Barbara Cooney, is a Newbury Award-winning children’s book about a true story of an adventurous little girl who becomes a wise and wonderful old woman. As a child, on her grandfather’s lap, she decides on three goals in her life: to live by the sea, to travel the world, and to make the world a more beautiful place. In the book’s climax, after living by the sea and visiting many faraway places, she has one more responsibility. She chooses to make the world a better place by planting flowers all around. It is a wonderfully gentle book with great messages that relate to our goals of connecting children to the world, taking responsibility, and taking action to make the world a better place.

- **Beatrice’s Goat**, by Page McBride, is the story of an impoverished Ugandan family that begins to flourish after receiving the gift of a goat. The story parallels the work of Heifer International and is a perfect accompaniment to this project.


- **The Giving Tree**, by Shel Silverstein, is a classic parable introducing children to the concepts of giving and receiving. The story is recommended for school-agers to spur deeper discussion about giving to others.

- **Rosa**, by Nikki Giovvani and illustrated by Bryan Collier, tells the story of the Civil Rights Movement as seen through the eyes of Rosa Parks.