

Using the Dice of Peace: evidences from various parts of the world

I am the first to love

Always be the first to love, without expecting anything in return.

My family lives in an apartment on the second floor. There are many children living in the building and we are all friends. When we're all together we are quite loud and one of our neighbors does not like it. He gets angry and we are afraid of him. Our parents told us that our neighbor works at night and sleeps by day. So we try to be less noisy, but we do not always manage to.

Our mother told us the story of a girl who lives a similar experience to ours. That girl tries to love her neighbor even if she's afraid of him. One day I was looking out the window when I saw our neighbor come home from work and I remembered the story. When my neighbor looked up, I said "hello!" and he answered back. I was so happy!



I ran to my mom and told her, "Mom, it works!"

Since then, even if I'm a bit afraid, I try to love him, by smiling and greeting him every time I see him.

Paolo Abratigue - 7 years old - Australia

The other day I saw a young woman whose car had broken down on a very busy street. I felt it was an opportunity to live the phrase "I love first", so I parked my car and helped her move her car so it allowed the other vehicles to flow more steadily. Doing so has given me great joy, as well as being able to share a real example of love with my students.

Andrés Granados teacher - Guatemala



I love everybody

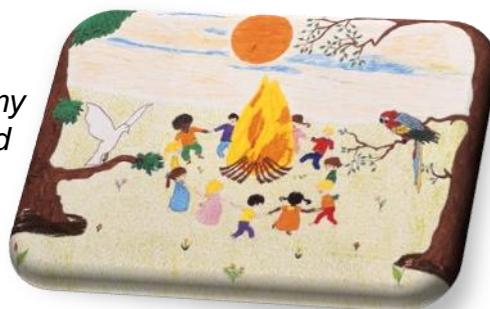


- ✓ Loving every person, the one who is next to me in this moment of life.
- ✓ It is love that goes beyond all differences of race, culture, religion, age or ideas, whether social or economic ...
- ✓ Love all people without exception, and care for the environment.

I brought sweets to my school friends because we always play games together and I love them.

Michelle (Kindergarten) - Italy

Last January 30th was the International Day of Nonviolence and Peace in Schools. On that occasion my mother, a teacher who participates to Living Peace, had organized an International Peace Drawing Exhibition together with other schools in Portugal and with the collaboration of many schools in the Living Peace network in the world.



I also made myself available for the preparation, printing the names and flags that corresponded to each country represented in the stands and taking photographs during the official opening.

This beautiful Peace Exhibition has been a strong testimony of many Portuguese kids like me who, along with many others around the world, have contributed to the development of a different culture - the Culture of Peace.

I was very happy to be part of it because I felt that this activity has renewed in me a commitment to bring peace wherever I am!

Bernardo Graca - 16 years old - Portugal

I love the other person

- ✓ I do to others what I would like done to me.
- ✓ Living the Golden Rule: "Do to others that which you would have done to you"; "Do not do to others that which you would not have done to you."

I have understood that I am responsible for peace building and that this it is possible by being honest and telling the truth. The other day I accused a schoolmate unfairly, saying that he had been smearing a door with ugly words. I said it even though it really was not true. I was scared because they were accusing me...

But when the phrase "I love the other person" came out of the Dice of Peace, I felt I had to tell the truth and live the Golden Rule. So I told him I had accused him unfairly and that I wanted to help him clean up what was dirty, apologizing. The beautiful thing was that everyone defended the companion as well and together we helped clean up what was dirty.



Marvin - 12 years old - Guatemala



While I was walking with my dad to the train station, there were many beggars in the underground tunnel. I noticed that no one helped or gave them anything; no one was interested in them. So I took my money and gave them to one of them. My dad told me I was good and generous. For me it was an opportunity to show my love.

Gabe 10 years old - Thailand

I listen to the other person

- ✓ Be in someone else's place.
- ✓ To share their joys and sorrows.

The phrase "listen to the other" came out and a pupil had drawn some bad things regarding his companions, bleeding scenes that expressed pain... I was interested in understanding what had happened to him and he told me that it was a way to dominate his emotions. The following day he told me that he suffered to have these feelings towards his companions and felt sorry because he loved them very much. I realized that it is important to listen deeply to avoid judging the children with harshness.

Lina - teacher - Guatemala



My school friends and I love each other very much and this gives me a great joy, but when I see that they are sad, I listen to them and I play with them..

8 years old - Spain



One of my school friends was angry because she had failed an exam, so I went to her to make her feel better, but I did not succeed. I shared with her the pain she was feeling and tried to improve her mood until she finally started to laugh again.

Angela - 11 years old - Haifa (Nazareth)

We forgive one another

- ✓ Commit to build and maintain peace, forgiving any offenses received, without waiting for anything in return.
- ✓ Knowing how to forgive and live for the construction of peace in the world.

One day my classmate was bothering me. I didn't react, but a friend who saw it wanted to go to tell the teacher. I told him that he didn't need to, because I had forgiven him.

Thiw - 12 years old - Thailand

Sometimes, during the break, some students start arguing. So, when I come to know it, I talk to each one and propose to reconcile it peacefully, through mediation: listening very carefully to the other, trying to understand the other's point of view, talking without offending and making them propose a way of re-establishing the relationship.

Once everyone agrees, they shake hands as a sign of Peace.

After a week we meet again to see how it went. They usually say, "We're friends again!!!! Peace has been restored, and it is a lasting and authentic Peace!!!"

Teacher - Spagna



We love each other

- ✓ Being friends and accepting the other as it is; be ready to start over every time a friendship is broken.
- ✓ "My neighbor has been created as a gift for me and I am been created as a gift to those around me."
- ✓ "On land everything is in loving relationship with everything: everything with everything. But you have to live love to find the golden thread between beings."



Last week I had been away from school and I did not have the new lessons discussed in my absence. I asked them to a friend of mine and she gave them to me. To thank her, I bought her a packet of biscuits for the break, as she had forgotten her snack.

Abril - Argentina

In the bus there was a blind girl so I helped her to get off the bus and cross the road. After I went back to the bus, thankfully the driver waited for me.

Mauro - Argentina



The road to Aleppo was closed and the city was isolated [...]. We are a group of young people and we planned to visit a monastery of nuns that looked after the elderly. We all decided to put a small sum of money together to offer dinner to everyone in the monastery.

Our eldest son is 5 years old. He has a piggy bank and we asked him if he wanted to contribute with a small sum... He asked: "They are adults, what do they want to buy with the money?" We responded: "We want to bring dinner and dine with them," so he replied, "Of course I want to contribute too!"

However, the day before he was sick [...]; he was sad to think he could not leave with us the next day. So we went to see the doctor [...] and as she checked him he said her, "Doctor, tomorrow I have a visit with my family, we go to see the elderly, can I go with them?" And she asked: "What are you going to do there?" he then replied: "I took money from my piggy bank and I will bring some food to offer to them."

At the end of the visit we paid the bill, but the doctor returned the money to my son, saying, "Go, you are healthy, this money is from me, I also want to contribute."

He was very happy because he was fine, but even more so because he could buy more food for the elderly with the doctor's money. The activity was very beautiful. He could come with us and helped give out the food and danced with them. He was happy for this act and we were as well for what he did."

Mariam - Syria - January 2017

