

## Appendix E6

# PARENTING EDUCATION AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

<i>Principles of Effective Character Education</i>	<i>Education for Parenting: Learning How to Care</i>
1. Promote core ethical values.	Parenting is an intense form of caring, one of the listed core ethical values.
2. Character must be comprehensively defined to include thinking, feelings, and behavior.	Caring is defined as thinking, feeling, and acting in the best interests of another. Effective parenting involves all three.
3. Effective character education requires an intentional, proactive, and comprehensive approach that promotes the core values in all phases of school life.	The Education for Parenting: Learning How to Care program offers workshops to integrate the caring paradigm into all phases of school life.
4. School must be a caring community.	Program advocates that the school personnel model the caring behavior being taught.
5. To develop character, students need opportunities for moral action.	The parent/infant visit provides students with opportunities to assume responsibility for another both during the parent/infant visit and doing additional suggested activities.
6. Effective character education includes a meaningful and challenging academic curriculum that respects all learners and helps them succeed.	Parenting curriculum acknowledges different learning styles of infants and students. uses multiple methods of instruction, e.g., reading, listening, observing, doing, interviewing, writing, etc., to engage students.
7. Character education should strive to develop students' intrinsic motivation.	The visiting babies are intrinsically interesting to most students. Students become involved in the caring process by planning for and carrying out the parent/infant visits.

## 2 DEVELOPING CARING RELATIONSHIPS

<i>Principles of Effective Character Education</i>	<i>Education for Parenting: Learning How to Care</i>
8. The school staff must become a learning and moral community in which all share responsibility for character education and attempt to adhere to the same core values that guide the education of students.	The extended parenting/caring program provides workshops in helping the entire school community to integrate caring into its ongoing life. It involves caring in terms also of how teachers relate to each other, to students, parents, the community and the environment.
9. Character education requires moral leadership from both staff and students.	The program works most effectively if there is a core group of teachers, administrators, parents and students coordinating the effort.
10. The school must recruit parents and community members as full partners in the character-building effort.	The caring program includes a program for parents.
11. Evaluation of character education should assess the character of the school, the school staff's functioning as character educators, and the extent to which students manifest good character.	Two approaches to evaluation are available. One in particular measures students' and staff's perceptions of caring within the school community. The other measures parenting/caring knowledge and skills

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From McDermott, D. & Heath, H. *Preparing tomorrow's citizens today by helping them learn how to care: Education for parenting*. Workshop at the 9th annual Forum of the Character Education Partnership, Atlanta, Georgia, October 17–19, 2002.