

YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO CARE

Dear Preschool Teacher,

Last year YMI, in cooperation with American Greetings, launched an innovative preschool classroom program titled **You're Never Too Young to Care**. This program, which featured the lovable Care Bears helping students and their families experience the joys of caring and sharing in many different ways, was enthusiastically embraced by teachers, students and parents across the country. **You're Never Too Young to Care culminated in the first National Care Week celebration last year, which motivated children and showed them how caring for family, friends, the environment and their community can make an impact—even throughout the nation and around the world.**

This year's free new curriculum program gives you and your students a great new opportunity to focus on how your children can make a difference. The program offers an exciting combination of take-home components, art activities and caring projects that will be meaningful to young children. The program includes ideas that were actually implemented last year by teachers who shared with us the success of their participation in the school program and in National Care Week with their students. **A portion of each of the activity sheets is designed to be taken home to the parent or guardian.**

The Care Bears are perfect ambassadors of caring and sharing, serving as an appropriate resource in aiding young children's social and emotional development. We are pleased and excited to have them return this year to once again help your students show that **You're Never Too Young to Care**. **We invite you and your students to use these educational materials and to participate in the second annual celebration of National Care Week, taking place this year October 17-24, 2004.**

The materials in this kit are copyrighted, however, you may make as many copies as necessary to meet your students' needs. We also encourage you to share the materials freely with other teachers in your preschool.

The period from late summer until mid-October is a great time to implement this program. The activities culminate with the observance of National Care Week and will help you determine a special activity for your students to perform during this special week.

Be sure to send us your class caring project idea. Be among the first 900 teachers to reply and you'll receive a free thank-you gift for sharing your ideas and showing that YOU care—the V.Smile TV Learning System with Care Bears software, valued at \$80!

Sincerely,

Roberta Nusim
Roberta Nusim, Publisher

Joel Ehrlich
Joel Ehrlich, President

P.S. A description of your class caring project and feedback on the Care Bears program can be emailed to us at YMIHQ@ymi-ltd.com or fill out the CONTACT form on www.youthmedia.com. Your feedback is important!

Program Objectives

- ♥ To help children build a lifelong habit of caring and sharing through the participation of preschools in year-long activities.
- ♥ To show children that they are never too young to change the world and make a difference.
- ♥ To engage children in expressing their emotions as they identify with various Care Bears personalities.
- ♥ To reinforce readiness skills, including language and vocabulary, matching, coloring and cutting, as well as science concepts by planting a seed.
- ♥ To encourage participation in the second annual National Care Week.

Target Audience

This kit is designed for preschool students. Simplify the material as you see fit for younger children.

How To Use This Guide

Plan to use the four activities in this program—together with the suggestions below and on the next page, plus activity ideas used by other teachers on www.carebears.com—to kick off the new school year with a year-long focus on caring and sharing. The material can also be used to motivate participation in National Care Week, October 17-24. Students will need one activity sheet and crayons or markers to complete each lesson, plus materials as listed. As students complete the lessons, keep a list of

their ideas and suggestions about ways to show caring and sharing, then if you decide to participate in National Care Week, you can use these ideas to help them select a way to observe National Care Week. Fill in your class caring project on the **Activity 4** master before photocopying and distributing it.

Planning for National Care Week

After using the activities in this guide, if you plan to participate in National Care Week, you may want to add to the excitement with these simple ideas:

- ✦ **Countdown.** Count the number of days from the time you start the program until National Care Week. Staple together a stack of paper squares of the same number. Record a different number on each square, starting with the highest (for example, 20, if there are 20 more days until National Care Week). Have children tear off a number each day to help count down the event.
- ✦ **Calendar Highlight.** Make a rainbow across the top of each of the numbers you will use to mark the day of the week during National Care Week. This will make October 17-24 stand out on the classroom calendar.
- ✦ **Care Bears Classroom Caring Chain.** When you notice children showing acts of caring and sharing, help them write their name on a strip of colored construction paper to make a link to a Care Bears Caring Chain.



How To Use the Poster

Display the poster, point to the seasonal pictures shown, and lead students in singing the lyrics to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" Use the suggestions below to help children show sharing and caring all year long. In the space on the poster for photos, first write on the lines a seasonal caring project your class can do, then post over it pictures of students at work on the project. Place student pledge sheets near the poster.

Fall

- 🍂 Complete your National Care Week project.
- 🍂 Have students and families collect blankets, coats, hats and mittens to donate to a shelter prior to the winter.

Help students make "I'm thankful for you because..." cards to share with friends and family at Thanksgiving.

Winter

- ❄️ Have students share their favorite board games with friends at school.
- ❄️ Help each child determine a chore they might do at home. Include it in the form of a "Care coupon for a special Valentine" for parents.

- ❄️ Make an edible bird feeder by smearing a mixture of vegetable shortening and cornmeal on a pine cone and then swirling it in birdseed.

Spring

- 🌸 Plant and tend a class garden.
- 🌸 Help families with spring cleaning by organizing a school-wide yard sale. Donate proceeds to a local charity.
- 🌸 Honor moms and dads at school by helping children plan a Mother's Day Tea and a Dad's Day Breakfast.

Summer

- 🌻 Plan a waste-free day. Ask parents to pack students' lunches in re-usable containers. Find new uses for non-recyclables such as empty milk cartons (art projects, etc.).
- 🌻 For July 4th, have children decorate cards for family members using colors of red, white and blue, showing what students love most about spending holidays with family.
- 🌻 Time for summer reading! Have students donate a children's book (used or new). Give the class collection to a local organization serving needy families.



Care Bears Profiles

The Care Bears live in a star-speckled, rainbow-trimmed, cotton candy world called Care-a-lot, where they teach the importance of caring and sharing. Each Care Bear represents a feelings- or caring-based relationship that is illustrated by a bright-colored symbol on its tummy. The Care Bears are:

Cheer Bear is an optimist who encourages those who don't feel well. (Color: pink, Symbol: rainbow, Best Friend: Wish Bear)

Wish Bear is creative, intuitive, and encourages others to work to make their dreams come true. (Color: aqua, Symbol: shooting star, Best Friend: Cheer Bear)

Share Bear is the most unselfish and giving of all the Care Bears. (Color: lavender, Symbol: twin lollipops, Best Friend: Tenderheart Bear)

Funshine Bear, the "class clown" of the Care Bears, loves to help others laugh and have fun. (Color: yellow, Symbol: smiling sun, Best Friend: Grumpy Bear)

Tenderheart Bear is sensitive and shows people how to share their good feelings with others. (Color: brown, Symbol: heart, Best Friend: Grumpy Bear)

Bedtime Bear likes to help others, especially kids, get a good night's sleep and plenty of rest. (Color: blue, Symbol: moon, Best Friend: Wish Bear)

Grumpy Bear shows us that being in a bad mood is okay sometimes, but that it's silly to let our grumpiness go too far.

(Color: blue, Symbol: rain cloud, Best Friend: Funshine Bear)

Friend Bear is outgoing and likes to show others how to be a good friend. (Color: peach, Symbol: two flowers, Best Friend: Love-a lot Bear)

Love-a-lot Bear is spunky, emotional, and has lots of love to share. (Color: pink, Symbol: two hearts, Best Friend: Friend Bear)

Good Luck Bear is self-confident and likes to share his good luck with others. (Color: green, Symbol: four-leafed clover, Best Friend: Funshine Bear)

Laugh-a-lot Bear has a silly and giggly personality that helps people laugh. (Color: orange, Symbol: laughing star, Best Friend: Love-a-lot Bear)

Champ Care Bear is confident and fair. He teaches people sportsmanship. (Color: blue, Symbol: golden trophy, Best Friend: Good Luck Bear)

Harmony Bear helps overcome differences between people and helps them get along. (Color: lavender, Symbol: flower with different-colored petals, Best Friend: Friend Bear)

Choosing a Project for National Care Week

Because every community has its own special needs, this program does not attempt to specify a class caring project for the observance of National Care Week. However, you might find these ideas from teachers across the country who participated in last year's program helpful as you plan:

 We planned a field trip to our local fire department. Then we decorated cookies and made cards to take with us as a thank-you for their hard work. —G.L., Wichita, KS

 We made cards for our adopted grandparents at the nursing home and delivered them wearing the special Care Bears tee shirts we made in class. —V.S., Gastonia, NC

 We made "Lucky Shamrock Magnets" for our local Meals on Wheels program. When the seniors received their meals, they also got one of our magnets with a poem about how "lucky" the kids were to have senior friends like them. —A.F., Paris, IL

 We participated in our community's toy drive for needy kids during the holiday season. —M.M.A., Indio, CA



Activity 1



I Can Care for My Family

Additional Materials Needed: One 9" x 12" sheet of construction paper per child, scissors, crayons, glue and mixed media (cotton balls, sequins, beads, etc.)

Distribute the activity sheets. Use the information in the Care Bears Profiles to point out each Care Bear's caring quality. Tell students how the Care Bears live together as a family in Care-a-lot. Help them discuss what the Care Bears are doing in the picture as they identify them and color them the appropriate colors.

Have children create a special Care Bears Care Card to give to their family. Help them fold a sheet of construction paper in half and draw rainbows on the cover, then cut out the Care Bears scene from the activity sheet and glue it onto the front of the card. Direct them to glue the "I care about my family because" section on the inside of the card and the "Dear Parent or Guardian" letter on the back.

Now have children decorate the front of the card by gluing the mixed media onto the scene. Next, take dictation from students to help them complete the caring sentiment on the inside of the card. You might also have them draw a picture of their family before they take the card home.



My Caring Project

Ask students to share what they can do to show caring in situations when their mom or dad seems to be sad, tired, needs help with a chore, etc. Then help children choose a Care Bear they most want to be like and tell one way they can show caring toward a parent, sibling, grandparent, etc., as that Care Bear. Encourage them to perform that caring act when they go home.



Activity 2

I Can Care for My Friends

Additional Materials Needed: Care Bears puppets made in class

First remind students that Care Bears care about their friends and that each even has its own best friend. Then help children identify the featured bear's best friend by describing its tummy symbol. Children then can cut out the correct tummy symbol from the activity sheet, glue it on the blank bear next to the featured bear, and color it the correct color. (The matchups are: Share Bear with Tenderheart Bear—heart symbol, Wish Bear with Cheer Bear—rainbow symbol, and Friend Bear with Love-a-lot Bear—twin hearts symbol.)

Now talk about how we can sometimes tell our friends' feelings by looking at their faces. Lead students in demonstrating emotions such as happy, sad, angry, worried, crying, etc. Then have children color, cut out and glue the images on the activity sheet to Popsicle sticks to make Care Bears puppets. Give each child a puppet to hold as you walk around the circle of children saying, "Care Bear, Care Bear, if you were a Care Bear, how would you show this friend you care?" At the end of the rhyme, stop, demonstrate an emotion, and help children identify it. The child you stop behind must tell how they would show caring if they were the Care Bear they're holding.

Have children take the parent portion of the activity sheet home to complete the assigned caring act together with their family.

My Caring Project

Reinforce the idea of caring and sharing with friends by helping children with a cooking activity of your choice. Then help children prepare extra portions of the food to share with another class, teachers and others at your school. Have children choose a special name for their snack.



Activity 3

I Can Care for My World

Additional Materials Needed: One or two cardboard egg cartons cut into individual egg cups, potting soil, plastic spoons, seeds of herbs such as fennel, garden cress, mint, scented geranium, wooly lamb's ear, dill or parsley, and water

Distribute the activity sheets. Tell children that caring for plants is one way to show caring toward the earth. Read the poem on the sheet together with students. Then help children follow the directions to plant and care for their own seed. Tell them the rest of the activity sheet will explain to parents how to help them continue caring for the seed until it can be planted outdoors in the spring and that they should take the entire sheet home.



My Caring Project

Help children make a special litter collection bag by decorating a standard paper grocery bag with a title, such as "My Care for the Earth Bag." Then have children color the bag with crayons or a marker. You might also have children cut out, color and glue the Care Bears on to the bag using additional copies of the **Activity 2** master. Tell students to take the bag with them on their next family trip, or use it as a litter bag for the family vehicle. Include these suggestions on a special note to be sent home to parents along with the bag.



Activity 4

My Caring Pledge

Additional Materials Needed: Heart or star stamps or stickers

Write the name of your Class Caring Project on the activity master before photocopying it. Have children sign their name to the pledge after reading it aloud.

Tell them that they will practice all the things the Care Bears have helped them learn about caring and sharing during National Care Week, and that they should take their pledge home for parents to sign, too.

Now point out to students the pictures around the border of the pledge that feature opportunities to care and share. Then refer them to the poster and its seasonal caring focus. Tell students to return their pledge to school with the signature of a parent or guardian so that it may be featured with the poster, and that their signed pledge will help them remember to care and share all year long. Then have children color the page. Give them a heart or star stamp or sticker to place beside their name.

My Caring Project and Program Culmination

Remind children that their special caring activity can be to participate in National Care Week! After the week has concluded, conduct a special Caring Acts Show and Tell Time by having children make a simple costume. You can have them decorate a paper plate with the symbol of a favorite Care Bear, then punch a hole on the left and right sides of it, use yarn to loop through the holes, and tie it around each child's tummy. Have children wear the costume (show) while telling (tell) what they liked best about the caring project they completed.



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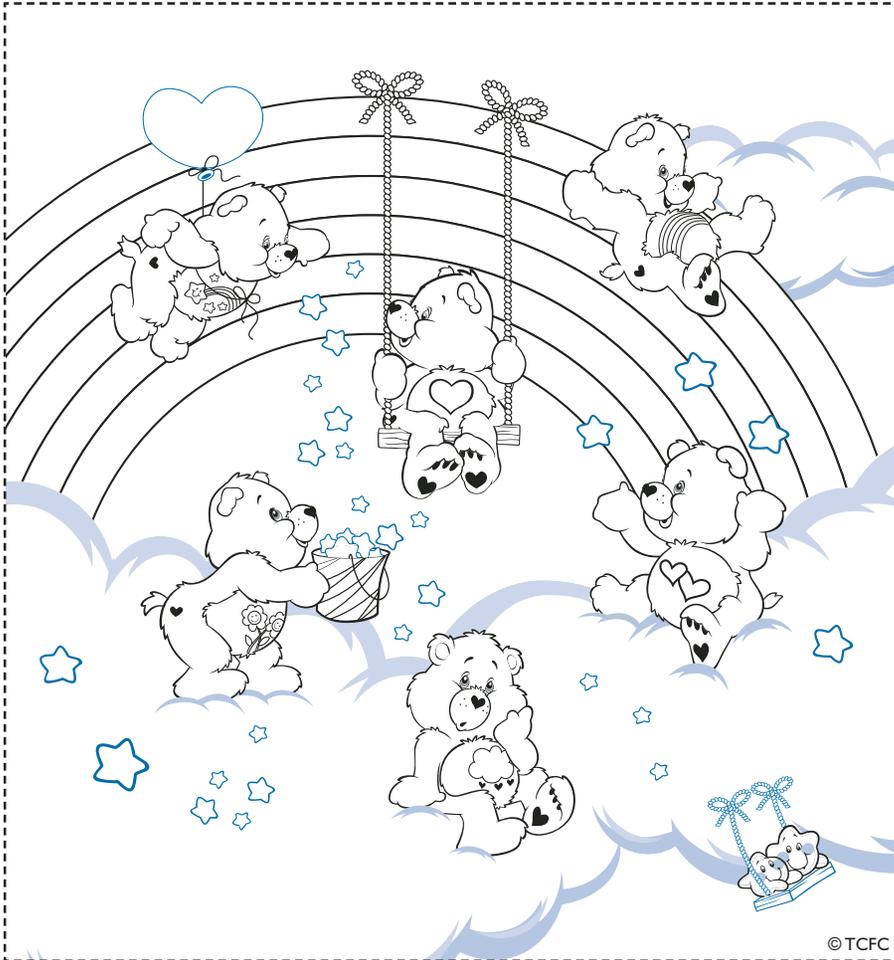
Care Bears, Cheer Bear, Wish Bear, Share Bear, Sunshine Bear, Tenderheart Bear, Harmony Bear, Bedtime Bear, Grumpy Bear, Friend Bear, Love-a-lot Bear, Good Luck Bear, Laugh-a-lot Bear, Care-a-lot are trademarks of ©2004 Those Characters From Cleveland, Inc. Used under license by Youth Media International, Ltd.
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I Can Care for My Family



Reproducible Master



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I care about
my family because

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We have been working on many different caring and sharing activities through an educational program called **You're Never Too Young to Care**, featuring the lovable Care Bears as they help your child with readiness skills, including language and vocabulary. The program leads up to the second annual celebration of National Care Week, October 17-24, 2004, where youngsters such as yours from across the country will show that they are never too young to care—about their family, about the environment, and about the world.

The Care Bears, which include characters such as Tenderheart Bear, Cheer Bear, Friend Bear and even Grumpy Bear, make it easy for children to think about and understand

their emotions. One of our learning themes is caring about our families.

Your child has made this special caring card just for you. Read it together. Then gather the family for a big family Care Bears hug, just to show how much you all care for one another!

Look for more home caring activities in the days to come and help prepare your child to observe

National Care Week!

Help your child remember all year to care and share. Take your child to meet a Care Bear at your nearest Toys "R" Us or Geoffrey's Toys "R" Us store on October 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT. Check out www.care-bears.com for details.

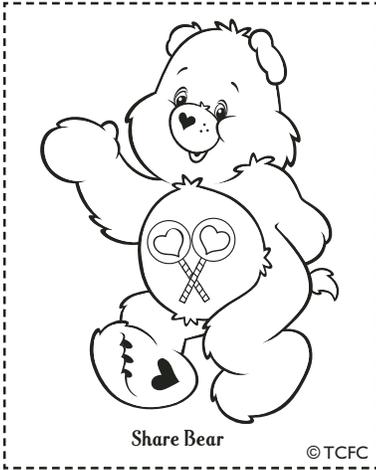
I Can Care for My Friends



Reproducible Master

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In this activity, we talked about how we show caring and sharing toward our friends. Talk with your child about ways to show caring for your family, friends or neighbors, then choose one of them and do it together! Perhaps you could bake cookies and share them with an elderly neighbor, pick out a flower or plant to give to a family friend, or just tell a neighbor or friend how much you appreciate them!



Share Bear

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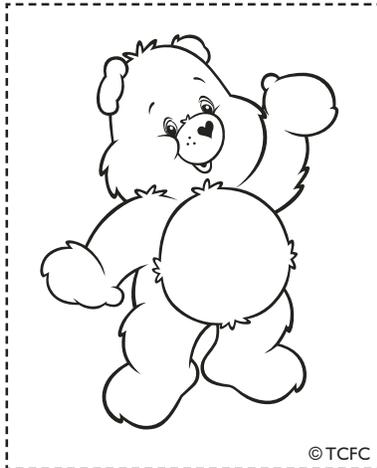


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Wish Bear

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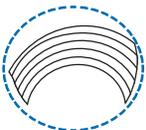


Friend Bear

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Help your child remember all year to care and share. Take your child to meet a Care Bear at your nearest Toys "R" Us or Geoffrey's Toys "R" Us store on October 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT. Check out www.care-bears.com for details.

I Can Care for My World



Scoop some soil into an egg carton cup.

Make a small hole in the soil with your finger—not too deep!



Place the seed inside the hole.

Cover the seed with more soil.



Give the seed a drink of water.



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I planted a little seed today
I'll take it home with me.
I'll plant it in the earth
to show
how caring I can be!

I'll water it and watch
it grow
And the earth will be
so glad
That I can learn and know
of ways
To make it happy~not sad!



Reproducible Master

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Today we did a caring project to protect our earth. We planted seeds in egg carton cups and made special bags for collecting litter.

Read the poem at left together with your child and help him or her continue to care for the seed by placing it in a sunny location and watering it whenever the soil begins to dry out. As the seedling grows, transplant the entire egg carton cup (the carton will decompose naturally) into half a liter bottle filled with soil that has holes poked in the bottom for drainage. When the weather warms in the spring, the plant is ready for transplanting into your own yard, community garden or local park.

Have your child help you dig a small hole in an area that will receive both light and shade. Gently tap the plant into the soil until it is secure and straight. Water it regularly and watch it grow!

Help
your child remember
all year to care and
share. Take your child to meet
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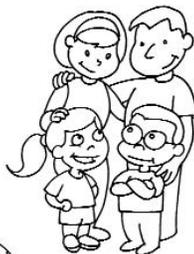
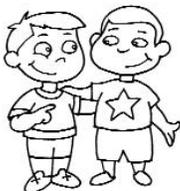


My Caring Pledge

Our Class Caring Project for National Care Week is:

I pledge to help with our Class Caring Project for National Care Week,

and to care for my family, my friends and the earth all year long!



My Signature:

My Parent or Guardian's Signature:



Dear Parent or Guardian,
National Care Week is here!

Read the pledge at left together with your child and have him or her tell you about

our upcoming Class Caring Project. Sign

October

				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	

your name to the pledge. Talk about ways to show caring for your family, during National Care Week and every day. Have

your child return this pledge sheet to school.

And thanks for your part in helping to make

the world a more

caring place!

Help your child remember all year to care and share. Take your child to meet a Care Bear at your nearest Toys "R" Us or Geoffrey's Toys "R" Us store on October 16th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT. Check out www.care-bears.com for details.

Care Bears™

Through the Seasons



My Care Bears Caring Song

Fall or winter,
Spring or summer,
Anytime of year,
Whether home or here,

Is just right for caring,
For loving and for sharing,
Caring time is here,
Let's give a Care Bears cheer!

Fall



Our Caring Project for Fall

Winter

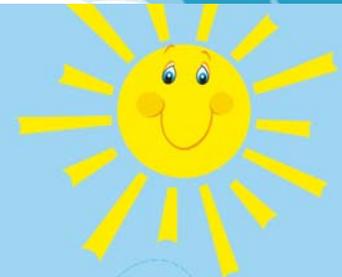


Our Caring Project for Winter

Spring



Our Caring Project for Spring



Our Caring Project for Summer

Summer