

## EXTENSION IDEAS FOR MAKING “CHARACTER” SOUP

- C** Create a family values chart: Write family names down the side and the pillar words across the top. Use stars or stickers to acknowledge when family members show that character trait.
- H** Have children make personalized nameplates for their rooms. Put on their name, a picture and the values they have learned and want to demonstrate.
- A** *Ask* all members to help write your family mission statement. Post it on the refrigerator.
- R** Read with your child—share stories from books, papers, and your life. Discuss the character virtues shown and the decisions that are made. Talk about the consequences of decisions and how they help build our character.
- A** Acrostics—Write acrostics with your child for each pillar word. C-Create, A-a, R-Respectful and Responsible environment, I-in your home, N-nurturing each other, G-giving to your family and neighbors.
- C** Collect and share quotations that state the values you want your children to know, love and do. Make refrigerator or bulletin board posters of them.
- T** Tablecloth of values—buy a piece of fabric and with embroidery paints or fabric markers, draw pictures and write your family’s value words on the cloth. Use it all the time, or bring it out for special “let’s talk” meals centered around family members’ exhibiting good values, making tough choices, etc.
- E** Encourage your child to journal—start with, “From the story of Stone Soup, I learned...” Add pages with the pillar words at the top to keep an on-going record of your child’s thoughts.
- R** Role-reversal game---Ask your child to act as the parent and you the child—have them “teach” you Stone Soup, or a pillar word and what it means.

**S** Send your own “Good News” note, letter or Thank you to one of the school staff or faculty for something your child has told you they did that showed one of the pillars in practice.

**O** Occasions for closeness—Take the occasion where you find it to further develop your relationship with your child and discuss values, decisions, stories from you—cuddle at bedtime, while you wash the car, while you are driving somewhere, while doing dishes, etc.

**U** Uncover your child’s interest in helping others—talk with them about what they would like to do help others and find a way to assist them in doing something in the community.

**P** Prepare to use the teachable moments and take time to reflect with your child on everyday things that happen that will encourage him/her to think about and value the pillars in their life.