

Elul 6 By Joyce Tisman

Throughout my daughters' childhoods I emphasized the power of gratitude. It was always important to take note and convey appreciation for both tangible and intangible things in your life. Needless to say, Thank You notes were of great importance in our family. As a preschool teacher approaching Chanukah I would play a guessing game of "What is in the gift box?" Clues were provided to develop critical thinking skills. Finally came the reveal...Often the "gift" was well received, but at times a great disappointment. Still the gift and gesture required recognition. A tactful way would be to say "Thank you for thinking of me". One child upon opening his gift of clothes from grandparents who were instructed by Mom to give him clothes as the child had lots of toys, thought it was wonderful he was so polite and indeed he was as the parents explained the lesson in class about gratitude and his mixed feelings about not getting a toy. I recently ran into Mom some 20+ years since I was her son's teacher. She said he often uses that saying now truly thinking of the individual who went to the effort to present a gift. I would like to think the values of being thoughtful, kind and having gratitude are values I live and spread through example to the countless children I have taught over the years. I would like to think this small experience we experienced in my classroom instilled these values and spread like the butterfly effect to the next generation.



Joyce and her husband Russ have been member of TBT over 35 years. she is a choir member . She taught special ed, Reading and Jewish Nursery school until she retired. She volunteers in the Nursery around the holidays in costume with story, song and puppets to convey the joy of celebrating our holidays.
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