Twilight Sparkle
Parent Guide

In celebration of international friendship day on july 30th, you can help your child make their mark on the world through friendship and service.

International Friendship Day focuses on the power and importance of friendship—just like the characters do in **My Little Pony.** Did you know that each pony represents an Element of Harmony that helps a child be a good friend? Pinkie Pie represents laughter, Fluttershy represents kindness, Applejack represents honesty, Rainbow Dash represents loyalty, Rarity represents generousity and Twilight Sparkle represents the magic of friendship!

These elements are key to building strong, caring, empathetic young people who are able to give to their friends and their communities.

Research suggests that the seeds of empathy, caring, and compassion are present early in life, but that children need the help of adults to grow into caring, ethical people[1]. Volunteer service is a practical, easy, and fun way for you to help your child practice caring, giving and friendship and to teach them why it's important to help others and how they can make a difference. Volunteering will benefit your child as they grow-up. Young people who volunteer have shown "greater respect for others, leadership skills, and an understanding of citizenship that can carry over into adulthood.[2]"

With help from Twilight Sparkle, you can teach your child about the magic of friendship while demonstrating how to be a friend by sharing stories with others.

Inside this guide there are 'ideas to chat about' to help your child understand why it's important to provide access to literacy and education for all. See the detailed steps to complete the project, plus supplemental reading that can help bring some of these difficult concepts to life.

After your child has completed their project, come back and tell us what they've done! By posting a photo and brief story, your child will receive a My Little Pony poster!

Visit generationOn.org/mlp to learn more and share your story.

[1] http://sites.gse.harvard.edu/making-caring-common/parents/strategies-tips

[2] http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=volunteering

The Issue of Literacy and Education

Twilight Sparkle has a love of learning that is unmatched in Equestria. She is an avid reader, top student and natural leader, always studying, learning or teaching her friends about the magic of friendship. Like Twilight Sparkle, your child and their friends can help share the joy of reading by collecting books to donate to children who may not have books of their own!

Did you know?

Reading is the basis for all other learning. Most jobs require literacy. For people to be safe and healthy, they must be able to read labels, signs, and laws. Children need books to learn to read. 80% of pre-schools and after school programs for low-income children in the U.S. do not have books. In parts of Africa, less than 1% of households with children have books. The price of books is the number one reason why children do not have access to books.

What your child will learn

- What it might be like for kids who don't have books of their own
- How to make "giving back" an everyday habit

Who you'll be helping

- Children at your local shelter, hospital, or daycare center

Ideas to chat about

1. What would it feel like not to have any books at home or to not be able to go to school?
2. What else can we do to help?
3. Why is it important to help those in need all year long—not just once a year?

Suggested reading:

Waiting for the Biblioburro by Monica Brown

This is the story of a young girl named Ana who loves to read. In her small village there are only a few books to read and she's already read them. One day, a traveling library comes through town on the backs of two burros. Now Ana has the chance to read more stories, and create one of her own.

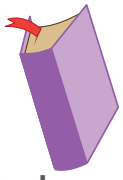
Twilight Sparkle and the Crystal Heart Spell by G.M. Berrow

In this book, Twilight Sparkle's life has been turned upside down by recent events in Ponyville. She sets off for the Crystal Empire to get advice from her former foalsitter, Princess Cadance. Inspired by the Princess, Twilight Sparkle sets off on a quest of adventure that will teach her about the magic of friendship and how to follow her heart.

Project instructions: books, books, books!

What you need

- Books, new or gently used
- Boxes to collect the books in
- Poster material, pens and paper to label the boxes with



Books, new or gently used

Boxes to collect the books in

Poster material, pens and paper

Steps

- Call a local hospital, shelter, or daycare to see if they will accept donated books
- Help your child decide how they will collect the books. They may want to collect books at school, at home, in your neighborhood, or from friends
- Have your child start by gathering the books they no longer use at home. Have them ask their friends to do the same
- Gather some boxes or bags to collect the books in
- Help your child decorate the collection boxes and make flyers and posters to encourage other children to donate books
- Download, print, and have your child colour this flyer to help them spread the word!
- When the collection period has ended, help your child gather the donated books
- Check the books to make sure they aren't missing pages or have rips or tears
- Take your child with you to donate the books they've collected

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WHO IS GENERATIONON?

generationOn is the youth service division of Points of Light, igniting the power of kids and teens to make their mark on the world. generationOn inspires, equips and mobilizes hundreds of thousands of kids and teens annually to take action through service, service learning and youth leadership initiatives. It also provides tools and resources to kids, teens, families, youth practitioners and educators to help kids change the world and themselves through service. For more information, visit www.generationon.org