



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie



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Mary Gordon
National Child Day Forum
"Empathy as the Base of Prosocial Behaviour"
November 13, 2008
Winnipeg, Manitoba





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Two Key Realities of Our New Millennium



- Interconnectedness of human society
- Unpredictability of world events





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Educating the Mind & Heart





Mission

Our mission is to build caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults.





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What makes the "bough" break?





Our Teachers...

Changing the world classroom by classroom



Breaking the intergenerational cycle of poor parenting and violence.



Emotional Literacy



Observation and labelling of emotions

Reflecting and identifying own emotions

Understanding the emotions of others (empathy)

Comfort in discussing emotions





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Authentic Dialogue





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Intrinsic Motivation



No trophies, no praise needed.





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"Love Grows Brains"



"Warm, responsive care reassures a baby but also strengthens the biological systems that allow him to handle his emotions and adapt to stress."

-Mary Gordon





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Social Inclusion

11. Do you have any other comments about or suggestions for the Roots of Empathy program?

1. We should always make people feel happy when you hurt their feelings.
2. Don't make fun of the black people because they are the same a white people but their black.

Appendix Theme 9-A: Grad

“Don't make fun of the black people because they are the same a white people but their black.”



Social Inclusion – Social Justice



- Dying to belong (Suicide)
- Killing to get even (Columbine)



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Attachment / Attunement



"Children develop within the context of their culture.

The attunement of parent to child needs to be complemented by the attunement of community to the family."

-Mary Gordon



Participatory Democracy & Building Consensus



Children as "Changers".





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Children as Advocates - Kindergarten

The most dangerous thing
that can happen to a
baby is:

neur siak
o Beay.



Changing the world, child by child.





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Mary Gordon, Founder/President

215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 160
Toronto, ON CANADA M5T 2C7
t: 416-944-3001 f: 416-944-9295
e: mail@rootsofempathy.org
w: www.rootsofempathy.org

Charitable Number 89643 4818 RR0001

