



THE POWER OF A KIND NOTE

What is a Kind Note?

Kind Notes are a quick and easy way to practice kindness. Write a note to a friend, family member, or anyone in the community that you want to celebrate, thank, or encourage. One of the most simple ways to develop and share your kindness skills is to do something small on a daily basis. Whether recognizing a specific act of kindness or just reminding someone how special they are, these little green notes can create a huge impact and will benefit the writer as well as the recipient.

Science

Kind Notes provide a concrete way to actively practice intentional kindness through written communication and reflection, as well as learning to accurately understand and manage feelings and show gratitude. They can also be used to emphasize the importance of self-kindness through writing (or drawing) Kind Notes to oneself, recognizing something that you like about yourself or a quality that makes you a kind person.

Ideas for Using

-Engage in intentional kindness by writing a Kind Note to someone in your life. Thank a friend, encourage someone who is struggling, or praise a loved one for a job well done!

-Brainstorm ideas for a community organization or a group of individuals who will receive your Kind Notes (public servants, nonprofit groups, senior citizens, etc.). Designate someone to deliver or mail the Kind Notes to the group.

-Write general Kind Notes (Examples: "You are wonderful!" "Thank you for making the world kind!" "I appreciate you!") and pass them out at random at an event or gathering.

-Write a Kind Note to yourself, recognizing something you like or a quality that makes you a kind person. Save this, and six months later write yourself another Kind Note reflecting on the growth of your kindness practice. Return to the original Kind Note so you can recognize and celebrate your development.

-If in a school setting, send a blank Kind Notes template home with students (or send via email to parents), and encourage families to practice kindness together by writing Kind Notes to each other.



References: 1. Kamenev, A. (2015, July 10). *The Writing Assignment That Changes Lives*. Retrieved September 14, 2016, from www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/07/10/419202925/the-writing-assignment-that-changes-lives 2. Emmons, R. A., & McCullough, M. E. (2003). *Counting blessings versus burdens: An experimental investigation of gratitude and subjective well-being in daily life*. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 84(2), 377-389. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.84.2.377> 3. Layous, K., Nelson, S. K., & Lyubomirsky, S. (2012). *What is the optimal way to deliver a positive activity intervention? The case of writing about one's best possible selves*. *Journal of Happiness Studies*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s10902-012-9346-2.

Additional Resources: *Tools for Kindness | Ben's Bells Project*, <https://bensbells.org/education/tools-for-kindness>



Share your ideas for using Kindness Coins/Kind Notes at facebook.com/bensbellsproject or @bensbells