



Summer volunteer work can build character & school skills

The world's problems can feel overwhelming. But kids can learn that every person makes a difference, and when people work together, the results are amazing! Summer volunteering is a great way to achieve this--all while building your child's confidence, compassion and talents. This will make her an even better student next year.

Start by discussing:

- **Interests.** What subjects interest your child most? How do they relate to others' needs? If she loves animals, she might help an animal rescue group. If she's interested in business, she might help organize a charity fundraiser. Enthusiasm is a great motivator.
- **Skills.** Your child's strengths, such as baking or reading, can be gifts to others. She might hold a bake sale or read to younger children. Sometimes it's fun to learn new skills, too, such as how to help with landscaping or home repairs.
- **Needs.** Perhaps you've noticed a park that needs sprucing up. Or maybe a homeless shelter needs food. Your child's school may even need help over the summer. Find out who's organizing volunteers. You are likely to find lots of volunteer opportunities in your community.
- **Schedules.** Volunteering takes time, and busy families only have so much of it. Set realistic goals that leave room for other priorities. Depending on your commitments, you might volunteer just a few hours here and there--or take on one large, exciting project!

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