



WHAT'S THE Word?

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT MY SPECIAL WORD

JANUARY 2021

Hello Friends!

“Giving” is one of the Special Words children in the My Special Word program have proclaimed to be theirs. It is a challenging time in our society, and as we look for solutions, many of the Special Words our children share seem a good place to start ... Giving, Together, Overcome, Appreciate, and Love. I’ve been reflecting on how “Giving” can help our children grow and learn from these challenges to create the better future we know is possible. There are three gifts we can share with the children in our lives daily.

- ♥ **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE!** Children need our love, and we can demonstrate it by listening to and encouraging them. By giving them love in our words, we create a safe, healthy, happy environment. By living out love in our families, this extends into society as children demonstrate the kindness, understanding and patience they experience at home. Remember to tell children the powerful words “I love you.”
- ♥ **HOPE!** As adults, we have developed coping skills based on our life experience that our children may not yet have developed. It is important to remember that in the absence of hope there is hopelessness, and our children must be shown how to hope. Remind them we all have the power to choose hope—in our words, attitudes and actions that provide a shining example of the possible. Help them believe in a positive future and never, ever limit the possible.
- ♥ **CARING!** There is a saying, “people don’t care about how much you know until they know how much you care.” Caring means sharing the best of ourselves, including the most valued treasure — our time. Take time each day to care for others with an act of kindness and a smile, and watch your light shine to others.

I smile each time I reflect on the special words of our children and their excitement. Now, more than ever, it is our responsibility to lift them up, and give them the gifts of love, hope and care. They are our incredible future, and at My Special Word, we believe it is our responsibility to empower them to believe in themselves. Please join us in this sacred work during this very important time.

With love and hope,

Dwight Smith

PROGRAM UPDATE



Online Learning Activities

As the pandemic continues to keep many kids from in-person learning settings, we’ve developed online activities for teachers and parents to use at home. The program launched in the fall and is packed full of fun with **thirty activities** for **age ranges 5-7, 8-10 and 11-13 years old**. We love to hear from kids as they continue to learn about and live their Special Word.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Meet a student, who got moving with our Yoga Challenge online learning activity. He had fun spelling his special word and learned how deep breathing and exercise are healthy for our minds and bodies.



MAKING HEADLINES!

Columbus Parent Magazine recently featured My Special Word celebrating how we began, all we’ve accomplished and the exciting work still to be done.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE STORY](#)

“What can we do to help you become that very special person that you aspire to be? That’s simple, but it’s impactful.”

—Dwight Smith



JOIN US

IN CHANGING A CHILD'S WORLD TODAY
[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)