

Community Information & Volunteer Centre Kelowna Capital News 2011 June 30

Instruct Roots of Empathy

Do you have a heart for children? Are you interested in facilitating learning? Can you commit for two years?

There is good news for kids and families! The *Roots of Empathy* program, offered in several SD23 schools, has a no-cost-to-you training opportunity coming this fall. Volunteer trainers are being recruited now.

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based program that has shown dramatic effects in reducing levels of aggression among school children while increasing pro-social behaviour. The program reaches elementary children from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

At the heart of the program is a neighbourhood infant and parent who visit the class every three weeks, for the Family Visit. The Instructor visits the week before and the week after each Family Visit to prepare and reinforce teachings using a specialized lesson plan for each visit.

Becoming a Roots of Empathy Instructor requires a commitment to deliver 27 classroom lessons of 30 - 40 minutes and to participate in four days of training. Throughout the first year, Instructors are supported by a mentor through phone calls, email messages and a classroom visit.

As a Roots of Empathy Instructor, you require patience, empathy, flexibility and energy. You must be able to teach a group of children in their usual classroom setting with the added dynamic of a parent and infant.

Becoming a certified Roots of Empathy Instructor, involves submitting an application form, being accepted for training, completing training, receiving 75% or higher on a written, open book certification test, and clearing a Police Record and Position of Trust Disclosure check.

Still interested? Watch the video and download the first chapter at www.rootsofempathy.org. You can email mail@rootsofempathy.org or phone 416-944-3001.

At www.kcr.ca, "Volunteer Opportunities Search", check out the Workshop Assistant for Cool Arts Society, Preschool Helper for Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, Osteoporosis Educator for Osteoporosis Canada, Kelowna Chapter.

Dawn Wilkinson, Coordinator
Community Information & Volunteer Centre
Kelowna Community Resources
Email. informkelowna@kcr.ca
Phone. 250.763.8008 E. 24
Fax. 250.763.7608
Website. www.kcr.ca
Address. 120 - 1735 Dolphin Avenue
Kelowna, BC V1Y 8A6