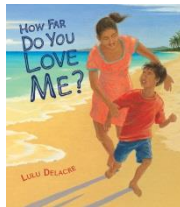


A Sense of Belonging



Social relationships with family, friends, and community help children develop a sense of belonging.

Belonging is fundamental to our children's overall well-being and happiness. It makes life easier!

In children, the sense of belonging has been linked to school success as well as later life success.

Research suggests that children who experience a greater sense of holistic well-being are more likely to learn effectively, engage in healthy social behaviours and invest in other's well-being.

Tips for nurturing a sense of belonging:

- Respond positively when your child reaches out to help others. Get them involved in home and school tasks.
- Help your child connect to extended family by making cards, writing notes, sending email, and telling stories.
- Model ways of being helpful. Children often imitate.
- Help all children develop pride in who they are.
- Read story books to inspire your child to think about relationships, showing love and being a friend.

Ontario Early Literacy Specialists

