



## December Character Trait Curriculum

**Generosity: It is better to give than to receive.**

### Generosity Book Exchange Left/Right Game

Age Range: All ages

Supplies: New or gently used books- provided by each child, left/right Christmas Story or music, letter template to parents.

Set Up: At the beginning of the month email or send home the note below to the parents of your group to let them know about the Generosity Book Exchange.

Instructions: On the day of the book exchange, begin by talking to your group about Generosity and its meaning and importance, use the talking points below for reference. When you are ready to begin the book exchange, have everyone sit in a circle with the book they brought and use the attached Christmas left-right story. Each time the children hear the word “left” they pass the book to the left one time; each time the children hear the word “right” they pass the book to the right one time. This continues until you have read the entire story. At the end, the children open their gift and now have a new book!

Adaptation for younger children: If you have younger children and passing to left or right is too difficult, start with one book at a time and play music. When the music stops, the child with the book keeps it and steps away from the circle. This continues until all children have a book. Be sure the children do not receive the book they brought.

### Talking Points:

1. What is Generosity?
2. Why is giving to others exciting or special?
3. How do you think people feel when you give them something special? How do you feel when receiving something special?
4. Do you always have to give someone a gift to be generous? What are other ways to show generosity?

### Book Exchange Letter to Parents Template

Hello Sunshine Day Camp Parents,

In honor of this month’s Character Trait, Generosity, the (enter group name/ grade here) will be having a Holiday Book Exchange on (enter date of book exchange here)! If you would like your child to participate in this activity, please send your child with a new or gently used wrapped book. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(Enter staff name(s) here)

# THE LEFT RIGHT GAME

**A "PASS THE PRESENT" STORY FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGES** – Everyone sits in a circle holding the present they brought. Someone reads the story. Anytime you hear the word "left", pass your present to the left. Anytime you hear the word "right", pass your present right. Whatever present you end up with is yours to open and keep!

Santa has a problem. He's lost his Santa sack and can't remember where he **left** it! This is no ordinary sack: on Christmas Eve Santa ties his sack **right** on top of his sleigh and sets off to deliver the **right** gifts to the **right** children. Every time he gets to a new house, the gifts for the children in that house magically appear in the sack **right** in time for him to hop down the chimney. Since he's had the special Santa sack he's never **left** a gift behind!

"Santa!" calls the Head Elf, Snowflake. He's Santa's **right** hand man. "It's time to go, **right** now!"

"But my Santa sack," says Santa. "I don't know where I **left** it!"

"Where did you last see it?" asks Snowflake.

"**Right** here by the sleigh!" says Santa.

"Well, it's not **right** here anymore," says Snowflake.

"You must have **left** it somewhere else and you better find it **right** now!"

"But that's the problem - I have no idea where I could have **left** it," said Santa sadly.

"**Write** down everywhere you've been today," said Snowflake, "and I'll get the other elves to help us look **right** away!"

Santa made his list and Snowflake called the other elves over to help.

Snowflake pointed to Elf #1 - "Ok, you need to check the cocoa corner."

"**Right**," said Elf # 1. What's the fastest way to get there?"

"Go straight through these doors, then take a **left** at the Candy Cane Castle, then **right** at Gingerbread Lodge, then another **right** at the cookie kitchen. Start looking **right** now!"

"**Right** you are!" said Elf #1, and he **left** to look.

Snowflake turned to Elf #2 and said, "Go check the workshop for Santa's sack! And take the shortcut:



go **left right** past the sled garage and you'll find five doors on the **left**. Take the one that's **right** next to the one on the furthest **left**."

"Was that a **right** at the sled garage?"

"No, **left**."

"**Left?**"

"That's **right**."

Snowflake checked Santa's list again and pointed to Elf #3. "**Right**, you'd better check Santa's bathroom. I don't know why he would have **left** his Santa sack there, but you never know, **right?**"

"**Right**," said Elf #3, and he **left right** away to go looking.

Snowflake checked his watch. "Oh dear, Santa, we really do need to leave **right** away. Are you sure you can't remember where you **left** your Santa sack?"

Santa shook his head from **right** to **left**, and then from **left** to **right**. "I wish I could remember where I **left** it! Why aren't the elves back yet? What are we going to do? Christmas could be ruined! I can't stand to think of all the children waking up tomorrow to the wrong presents. I need that sack to make sure I deliver the **right** gifts to the **right** children!"

"You're **right**," said the head elf. "This is getting serious. There's only one thing left to do."

serious. It's time to call in reinforcements." Snowflake pulled out a walkie talkie and pushed the **right** button to activate the loudspeaker.

"We have a code red," Snowflake said on the loudspeaker. "Santa has **left** his sack somewhere on the premises, and we need to find it **right** away. I repeat: Santa has **left** his sack and we need to find it **right** away. It is imperative that the **right** gifts get to the **right** children, so please start looking and make sure no stone is **left** unturned. If found, deliver the sack to the sleigh **right** away!"

They waited a few more minutes, but no one arrived with the sack. "You're just going to have to go without it, Santa," said Snowflake.

"Maybe not!" rang out a voice **right** behind Santa. It was Mrs. Claus, and in her hands was a bright red sack. "You **left** this in the closet while you were getting dressed. Something tells me you need it **right** about now."

Santa gave Mrs. Claus a great big hug. "You're the best!" he exclaimed. "I don't know what I would do without you."

"**Right** you are," said Mrs. Claus. "Now get out there and make some dreams come true. Merry Christmas!"



# SUNSHINE DAY CAMP

## December Character Trait Curriculum

**Generosity: It is better to give than to receive.**

Generosity: The Giving Tree

Age Range: All Ages

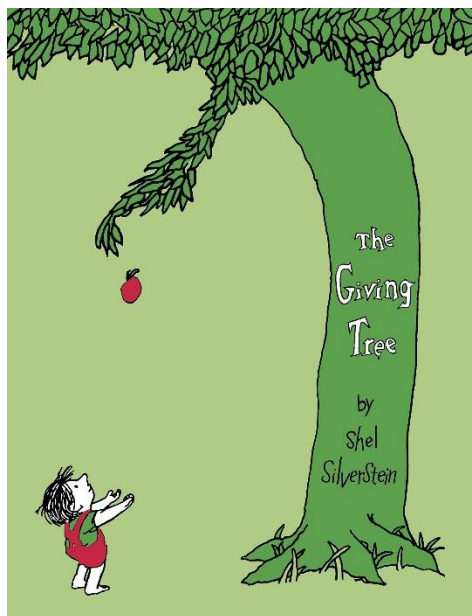
Supplies: The Giving Tree book, if you do not have it, you can find the PDF here: <https://walnutmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/239064999-The-Giving-Tree.pdf>

Set Up: N/A

Instructions: Read the story, The Giving Tree. After you complete the story, have a discussion with your group about how the tree showed the boy Generosity and did not look for anything in return. Use the talking points below to help with your conversation or add your own talking points.

Talking Points:

1. When you give something to someone do you expect something in return? Did the tree expect the boy to give him anything in return?
2. When you are given something, do you feel that you owe something to the person who gave you that gift? Did the boy show gratefulness to the tree after everything he received? How do you think the tree felt?
3. Would you give something you really need to some you love if they really need it, too?
4. How do you feel when you give someone something? How do you think the tree felt giving the boy everything he had? How do you know?
5. How do you think a person feels when you give them something?
6. Why is it important to remember Generosity during the Holiday season?





## December Character Trait Curriculum

**Generosity: It is better to give than to receive.**

Generosity Game: The More You Give, the more You Get Race

Age Range: 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Supplies: Water, two bowls per group of students, dixie cups or anything small that could be used to transport water.

Set Up: On one side of the playing area place one bowl per group labeled with the group number. This will be their “receiving” bowl. On the opposite side of the playing area, set up another bucket for each team, filled with water. This will be the “giving” bowl. Divide into teams and have the children sit in a line behind their giving bucket.

Adaptation: If it is too cold for water, you can use beads or any type of small object, you would just need a lot of the item.

Instructions: Each team wants to unload as much of their water into another team’s bowl on the opposite side of the playing area as quickly as possible. The team with the least amount of water will be the winners. Thus, in this game, it is truly “better to give than to receive.” Each team will start with an equal amount of water in their giving bucket. On “Go” the teams will have 5 minutes to get rid of as much water as they possibly can. Children can only have one person at a time go from their giving bucket to another receiving bucket, using only the dixie cup. Once the child takes water from their giving bowl and dumps it into a receiving bowl they go back to their team, tag the next person and play continues. You will notice other teams will be dumping water into each other’s receiving bowls. As the receiving bowls become full and the giving bowls are empty, teams can move water from their receiving bowl to another teams receiving bowl. The team with the least amount of water in their bowl at the end wins. Once the game is over, discuss with your group about Generosity. Use the talking points below for reference.

### Talking Points

1. Share about a time when someone gave to you or when you were able to give to another.
2. What things in your life are hardest for you to give? When is it hardest for you to give?
3. What are non-material things you could give?