

“Peace Chain”

At a makeshift memorial outside the Safeway Grocery store where she was shot, a group of children left a paper chain for Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Each child had written a message for Giffords on his or her slip of paper, sending their love and wishes for her recovery, and each slip of paper formed a link in the chain of unbroken love and support for her.

On Valentine’s Day, why not make your own chain to show your love and support for peace in our world – a “Peace Chain.” This activity has multiple applications and variations and can make a strong visual statement when displayed. Depending on your theme, it can be directed to address a specific topic (e.g., preventing bullying, discrimination, war...) or it could be a simple, general expression of love.

Variation ideas:

- **Sample theme ideas for your chain:**

- Our wishes for peace
- “Peace is.....”
- “I love _____ because.....”
- “I can bring peace to the world by.....”

- **Ideas for how to use your chain:**

- Have each class create their own chain, then join all the chains by grade level (i.e., connect all the 3rd grade chains)
 - If it’s long enough, gather all the kids in each class in the center of the room and wrap the chain around them. Take a picture of the class “bound together in their wishes for a peaceful world.” Do this for each class.
 - post the picture on the school website, on a bulletin board, etc...
 - give each child a copy of the picture to remind them of the “bond” they’ve made with their classmates
 - Connect all the grade level chains in to one long school-wide chain.
 - Measure how long it is.
 - See how far it can reach (i.e., from the office to the gym, etc.)
 - Take pictures to post and process the exercise as something like “So and So School is bound together in their wishes for peace”
 - Wanna take it to a crazy level? Coordinate with other schools in your cluster to join your school-wide chains to show solidarity across schools. Be sure to take pictures of students and teachers holding the chain, measure the chain, see how far it reaches, etc...we could even do this across the whole East Cobb County Council – how cool would that be!