



# YMCA Project Cornerstone ABC Social and Emotional TK/Kindergarten Toolkit for Year One



### September: Have You Filled a Bucket Today?

- The power of affirming words is captured by the simple concept of *bucket filling*.
- Children learn kindness helps build friendship skills.
- The use of strong visual imagery of *bucket filling* builds a climate of respect and kindness school wide.



# October: Gustavo the Shy Ghost

- Helps children recognize and understand their own emotions and develop strategies to manage them.
- Explores how to learn to communicate feelings and needs effectively.
- Navigate social situations and build positive relationships.



# November: Cool Down and Work Through Anger

- Teaches children to recognize feelings of anger.
- Focuses on skills for an anger management toolkit: self-calming, thinking, getting help from a trusted person, talking, and listening, apologizing, being patient, and viewing others positively, which allows students to choose their reaction and achieve self-control.



# January: Giraffes Can't Dance

- Helps children recognize that they have *personal power* and can choose to take control of their response to challenges.
- When children tap into the power of positive thinking, they learn to treat each other with respect, tolerance, and kindness.



#### February: Understand and Care

- Focuses on explaining empathy to children.
- Understanding how another person feels is an important social skill that will allow children to show respect and caring for others.
- Helping children learn to express their feelings assists them in acquiring perspective-taking skills.



## March: Cuckoo

- Teaches children the positive values of caring, integrity, and responsibility.
- Empowers students to build a strong character with these values.
- Models how to help others without being asked.



### April: Accept and Value Each Person

- Instructs children about living in a diverse world.
- Talks about accepting and valuing people different from oneself and their family.
- When children are interconnected, accept others, and have the capacity to be reflective, it increases empathy and understanding.