

## ***Starting Service with Literature***

A Character Education Partnership (CEP) Promising Practice

Lawrenceville Elementary School  
Lawrenceville, New Jersey

Principles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7: Provides students with opportunities to reflect on core values, use academic skills, build a caring school community, participate in moral action that increases student engagement in meaningful learning while promoting intrinsic motivation.

Grade Levels: PreK - 3



Lawrenceville Elementary School begins most service learning projects by introducing it to young learners through children's literature relating to the theme of the project. Older students rehearse and then read a book in teams of three or four to the lower grades. The literature presented has real-world themes such as loneliness in a nursing home, missing a parent in the military, or hunger in our community. Through the book's story and illustrations, children are able to acquire a better

understanding of the needs of these complex problems. Younger children are also able to develop positive relationships with their older schoolmates as they observe the modeled responsible behavior and advanced reading skills. As students move forward with the project, there is an increased understanding of the problem and empathy. Even the PreK and Kindergarten children eagerly lend a hand to the school-wide solutions to very complex problems.

### Contact

Ms. Kathy Jensen  
School Counselor  
[kjensen@ltps.org](mailto:kjensen@ltps.org)  
[www.ltps.org](http://www.ltps.org)

Used with permission from CEP. Follow this link to CEP Promising Practices website--  
<http://www.character.org/schools-of-character/promising-practices-overview/promising-practices-award-winners/>