



EVERYBODY NEEDS HELP SOMETIMES

A kit about poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness

“Children are likely to develop stereotypes about people who are poor unless adults make an active effort to talk to children about poverty using anti-bias, social justice principles.” - Rebekah Gienapp

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Explore your own biases about people who are poor before you talk to children about poverty.
- When kids ask why someone is poor or homeless, focus on the system, not the person.
- Notice stereotypes kids may be forming about how class and race intersect and remind kids that homelessness is a problem across different groups and communities.
- Shift the language you use when you talk to children about poverty.
- The next time you are discussing homelessness, try using the phrase “unhoused people” instead of “homeless people.” Talk about how that phrase points to the fact that as a society, we could house everyone if we worked together on that goal.
- Emphasize human rights as you talk with children about poverty. Our society teaches that basic needs like housing, food, and health care have to be earned. Instead, we can teach children that these are human rights. A society isn’t fair if it doesn’t meet all people’s basic needs.
- Explore children’s feelings about poverty.
- Offer possibilities for action. As you talk about ways your family or class can take action, talk about the different responsibilities that governments, businesses, community groups, and individuals have to help end poverty.