

Alpine County Choose Civility Campaign

(An initiative of the Child Abuse Prevention Council and County Superintendent of Schools)



August Focus:

Pay Attention

When we pay attention we are alert to the world and the people in it. This allows us to improve our responses and therefore the quality of our lives and the lives of those around us. If I'm talking on my cell phone or visiting with a friend in a restaurant and notice those around me trying to enjoy quiet conversation I can lower my voice or take my call outside. Helping children notice how their behaviors impact others is also important. Point out how loud talking is interrupting someone's conversation or how running and being rambunctious is causing a napping child or resting elder discomfort.

By paying attention, we confer value upon the lives of others. We honor the worth of those around us. Civil treatment of others requires attention and consideration. This attention to and consideration of others is the opposite of self-centeredness and being oblivious to the needs of others. These examples show the victory of attention over selfishness, carelessness and indifference.