

“Little things are indeed little, but to be faithful in little things is a great thing. God does not call us to do great things, but to do small things with great love.”

- Saint Mother Teresa



ROOTED IN MISSION
AGAPE: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Reflection on Agape– Unconditional Love

When I read this quote I immediately think about the special care and love that is displayed every day in every way at St. Edmond's. People are often taken aback when a staff member knows to push a piece of hair off of a child's forehead and out of their eyes or when they participate in a game on the boardwalk with hand over hand involvement or when they rub their hands to ease the child's transition into a different activity or when a staff member leans closer to a child to explain to them what is going on in their environment or taking those few extra moments to adapt a situation for a child so they can enjoy it. It is all of those "simple things" that are done with an abundance of love.

The kids show us every single day that you do not need to verbally say "I love you" for someone to know that you love them. The overwhelming love that St. Edmond's employees have for the kids is incomparable to anything you can witness. I do believe that we have been able to make a change in the perception of the kids each time we go out and people see our interactions with them. It's a very simple thing that passes along great love!

One of the things I started to do was to say good night to one of the kids whom I share a connection with. I started to say good night to her every night because her family has been unable to visit her for several years due to unforeseen circumstances. I think back about how much I enjoyed my parents tucking me in at night and talking to me before going to sleep. This particular child enjoys physical humor so I don't just say goodnight to her, usually a few staff and I joke around and get her laughing before we say good night.

One of the nights doing this, one of my coworkers said "I hope she gets this wherever she goes next." That sentiment really stayed with me. Yes, it is very easy to say good night to someone as you pass by their bedroom, but to make sure that this small, but great act of love is carried throughout her life is important. It proved to me that something as simple as saying good night, could lead to a bond of love.

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