

Generation Two

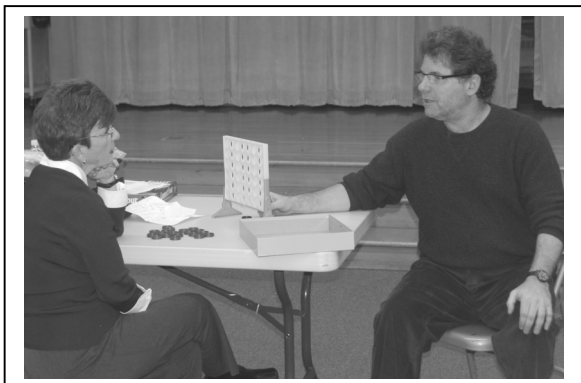
Creating Intergenerational Friendships



Issue #2 April 2010

Child Centered Play

On March 25th Bruce Gilberg shared with G2 volunteers about how play helps create a relationship with their student friends. He spoke about the importance of listening to each student and allowing the student to lead the play. He played Connect Four with a volunteer and demonstrated the role "winning and losing" sometimes plays in this child led play. Volunteers shared that the workshop was a great reminder how when children lead play it can guide them towards a better understanding of relationships and life.



Elena Wilkonski and Bruce play a game of Connect Four as they role play a child - adult interaction.

Please Play

G2 invites you to watch how G2 friends play and talk with each other. You are welcome to visit anytime. You may notice that your child makes all the play decisions, while her/his senior friend plays along. Whether doing make-believe, rolling play dough, playing a game or doing something else together, your child is in charge during our G2 play time.

How your child plays is very simple. Presented with a suitcase filled with board games, blocks, cars, dolls and craft supplies, your child simply says "I'd like to do this", and his/her adult friend says "sounds good... how shall we start?" This G2 friendship is a brief "holiday" from school and daily homework and chores. No wonder children say "I want to live at G2!"

Not only is this really fun - according to the American Academy of Pediatrics 2006 Clinical Report, this type of free play has proven to strengthen a child's emotional, social, speaking and thinking skills. Would you be willing to play the G2 way at home?

G2 would like you to try to do what we do. At least once a week parents can take their child's lead in play and conversation. Let your child lead and make all the decisions about what to do. For example, suspend the inclination to make suggestions for better outcomes when building with blocks or Legos. Follow instead of lead. Play games with new "rules" invented by your child. Give your child your undivided attention. Most importantly, play together without the distractions of dvds, tv, computers and yes, even your cell phone! G2 is asking families to try this once a week for 30 minutes for 4 weeks in a row. We would love to hear comments from you about your family's experience.

Mission Statement

Generation Two fosters wellness by creating vibrant intergenerational friendships and child advocacy through civic engagement.

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Can and Bottle Drive

Ongoing Fundraising Alert! If you have beverage containers to return please consider taking them to EZ Bottle Return located at 1259 Fairport RD. (377-9140) Open Mon-Fri 10-6 and Sat 10-4. There are no waiting lines, no broken machines and your redemption amount will be credited to Generation Two.

Quotes from the Volunteers

Why do you participate?

The reward of watching and playing with the children and the change in them from Oct to May.

(volunteer for 6 years)

It is really great interacting with the kids. Getting to know them and establishing an ongoing relationship is wonderful. . . especially since we have no grandchildren. (first year volunteer)

It is such a great idea enabling the dear first graders to have the full attention of an adult one-on-one with no directed activity for a full half hour. (volunteer for 5 years)

Generation Two Volunteers

G2 is about forming a relationship between a child and an adult. Our volunteer friends are at the center of that relationship. Volunteers range in age from 21 to 90. They come from numerous professions including homemakers, engineers, doctors, and school professionals. The volunteers may all have varying reasons for why they became a part of the program. Many also have very good reasons for continuing the program. Over 85% of our volunteers return year after year. Some volunteers say they keep coming back because of "the excitement and pleasure that the kids express and the positive relationship with the kids." Volunteers not only enjoy the time they spend with the kids they also value the relationships they have made with the other volunteers. "The other volunteers are wonderful – and who doesn't need some new friends." If you would like more information on volunteering in the 2010-2011 school year contact Melanie Mroz at 377-7983 or mmroz@frontiernet.net.

Generation Two in the News

Mark Hare visited School # 3 in Rochester and was inspired to write about G2 in his column in the Democrat and Chronicle. On March 23rd he wrote the article titled "1st - graders, friends, learning to love school." The article can be found at the Democrat and Chronicle Website: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com>

Our next G2 Board meeting will be held at Brooks Hill School on April 27th at 7. These meetings are always open for any staff, volunteer, or parent to attend.

"Through play, children can communicate thoughts, needs, satisfactions, problems, and feelings. An adult can learn a lot about a child's feelings of joy, hope, anger, and fear by watching, listening to, and talking with a child at play."

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Visit our website: www.g2isgenerationtwo.org