



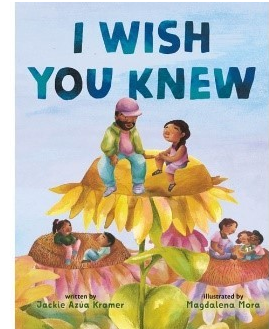
YMCA Project Cornerstone Summer Fun – ABC

An 8-week adventure in reading, games, and family fun!

Print a copy of the 8 week [coloring sheet](https://tinyurl.com/ChampionYearColoringSheet) (<https://tinyurl.com/ChampionYearColoringSheet>). Each week, color the image for the book and at the end of the summer you will have a fun reminder of the weeks you spent building empathy.

Week 2 – *I Wish You Knew* by Jackie Azúa Kramer ***Listen with Your Whole Heart***

Book synopsis: This book discusses a young girl whose father must return to their native country. There are things we don't see which others are facing, and that's what this book is all about. The power of connection through empathy helps children improve their mental health by learning to understand underlying issues in a person's life. The use of active listening allows them to gain insight into the speaker's experience, encouraging perspective-taking and building empathy.



Goal: actively listening, perspective taking, compassion

Monday Activity: Be a Bee

Take a walk and imagine you were a bee, collecting flowers where appropriate.

- Think of the beautiful gardens and school grounds at Estrella's school.
- Which flowers would stand out to you if you were a buzzing bee. Which yards would you love?
- After a little while, consider how your perspective is different from one another and which yards you love and why.
- Give the bouquet of flowers to a friend or neighbor

Tuesday Craft: Comic Book Story

Materials: blank sheets of paper, drawing tools.

- Tell your child we will be creating a story with pictures only and brainstorm some ideas together.
- Encourage them to make up a character and setting, help while allowing their voice to come to life. Draw boxes for the comic book for younger children.
- Once they have drawn their story out, ask them to share it with you (or better yet someone else).

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- You could give a different perspective of what you thought the story was or could be about and share that we all see things differently. Be sure to share plenty of positive feedback!
- Have everyone in the home who can make one take a turn sharing their short comic books.

Wednesday Reading: *Calling the Water Drum* by LaTisha Redding, 2016

Thursday Activity: Walk in Their Shoes

Materials: shoes from everyone in the home

- Get out a few pairs of shoes for anyone in the home.
- Take turns trying them on, dancing, skipping, doing an obstacle course, whatever interests your child.
- Talk about how it would be tough to just step into someone’s shoes (or life) but realizing we all have different experiences helps us understand each other!

Friday Family Movie Night: Encanto (PG, 2021)

Watch “Encanto,” a film about a family discovering what matters most. After watching the movie, here are some discussion questions:

- What names are important throughout the movie?
- How does the book and all its colorful pictures remind you of the movie?
- How do the characters prioritize their community? Is that the most important thing?
- Mirabelle loves her family and finds them to be the most important thing. The same is true for the girl in *I Wish You Knew*. Why is your family important?
- Mirabelle doesn’t feel like she can help her family because of her lack of a special gift at the beginning. Does this end up being true? How can you help your family even when you think you’re too little or don’t have enough influence?

BONUS FUN: Spread Love to Others. Ask your extended family or friends to share their stories with you and your child. Create questions that will interest them like: “What was your favorite meal as a kid?” “What did you do during recess?” “What book did you love reading?” Ask them to share with you and encourage follow up questions to learn more with your child. You will be learning about someone different than you, teaching your kid active listening, and showing love by truly listening to another person.