What is... FAIRNESS?

The definition of fairness is, not favoring one above another. The most basic description of fairness for young children is taking turns. Fairness is to see things from the other side, or the other point of view. Fairness is getting to know someone without pre-judging them. It does not insure equality, but it tries to insure equal opportunity. Stereotypes and prejudice are not fair to anyone.

Activity; The Egg

Supplies Needed:

- **Clear drinking glass**
- **1 cup water**
- **1 fresh egg**
- **1/4 cup salt**
- **A tablespoon**

Place 1 cup water in the glass. Name your egg; I am calling the egg George. Do not use a name of anyone present or in the classroom. Carefully add George (the egg), to the glass. Explain that George represents someone who is not being treated fairly, and the unfair treatment continues over and over. George has sank to the bottom of the glass which represents how he feels. He feels like someone who is sad, mistreated, depressed, and defeated.

Remove the egg from the water. Now add salt 1 tablespoon at a time. As you stir in every tablespoon of salt, explain that the salt represents all of the ways to show fairness toward other people. (Give examples): Taking turns, being honest, treating others with respect, helping someone who is not being treated fairly.

After all of the salt has been stirred in, carefully place Georg (the egg) back into the water. Explain: If George has been treated fairly, he floats! Now George feels supported with kindness, feels accepted by others, and is being treated fairly.

DISCUSSION:

- What does it mean to be fair?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't feel like you were being treated fairly?
- Why is it important to be fair?
- What would you do if you saw someone being treated unfairly?
- Is it ever too late to apologize to someone you have treated unfairly?