

MY KINDNESS TREE POSTER

Here's a simple, inexpensive fun activity to do with children after reading *For No Reason* and *High in the Sky* by Kathleen Gauer. In *For No Reason*, Jamie Higgins comes up with a kind and clever way to deal with a classroom bully, Brad Lugsley, without being mean. *High in the Sky* follows a young energetic child's imaginative adventures while riding on a tire swing. Ask for these titles at your local library or order your own signed copies at <https://www.skippingstonepress.net>.

What You Need:

- 4 sheets of coloured construction paper 8-1/2" x 11" (blue, red, green, and black)
- corrugated cardboard (peel off the first layer of a recycled box and leave surface rough to resemble bark.)
- kindness poem printout 3" x 4" (use my poem or create your own)
- black fine-tipped marker
- school glue
- paper edgers and straight-edged scissors
- stickers (optional)
- googly eyes
- twine 4" long
- clean black foam tray or rubber craft sheet

Directions:

1. Cut 7 strips of corrugated cardboard for the tree as follows: 1 – 2" x 5" (tree trunk), 2 – 1" x 5" (large branches), and 4 – 2" x 1/2" (small branches). Cut one end off each branch on an angle depending on placement (see photo). Tie and knot one end of the twine around one of the small branches.

2. Using paper edgers, cut around outer edges of the blue construction paper and the kindness poem print-out.
3. Cut out of the red construction paper: 3 hearts (or more if desired), approx. 1" x 1". Use black marker to print short kindness messages on the hearts (*smile, be kind, etc.*)
4. Cut out of the black construction paper: a deep smile 1" across and 2 eyebrows ½" wide. Stickers can also be used for facial features.
5. Cut out a tire 2" x 2" from the foam tray or rubber craft sheet.
6. Print a ***MY KINDNESS TREE*** caption in large letters (by hand or computer) onto the green construction paper and cut off the strip to measure 8-1/2" x 1-1/2". Fray the top edge ½" to look like grass. Cut out 3 or more leaves 1" long from remaining green paper.
7. Glue the trunk of the tree and the 6 branches onto the blue construction paper as in the photo, making sure the branch with the twine is the bottom right branch.
8. Glue the googly eyes, smile and eyebrows onto the tree.
9. Glue the hearts and leaves onto the branches.
10. Glue the tire 1" under the bottom branch and glue the loose end of the twine onto the tire.
11. Glue the kindness poem printout to the left of the tree trunk.
12. Glue the green ***MY KINDNESS TREE*** caption to the bottom of the poster, overlapping the base of the tree trunk. Bend the frayed edge to look like grass.
13. Add kindness stickers if desired.
14. Sign your name at the bottom and hang your kindness poster on your classroom or school wall with pride!

When you've finished creating your poster, email a photo of your masterpiece to Skipping Stone Press on Facebook and we'll post it on our website for all to admire!