CIVILITY CORNER

Strive to Be Inclusive

The third tool Be Inclusive purpose is expanding our ability to listen. We can learn from our two year old children who have become more verbal and want to do things for themselves. Constantly we hear them say “Why, why, why” in very impulsive ways. Each day they see more and more in their world and on their level want to control it. Truthfully they want knowledge, ideas, thoughts, imagination.

All of us want that information throughout our lives. Much is fact, but a lot is opinion. When we are listening to opinions to which we agree, it is easy to do. Not so when we disagree. Yet we still need that information. We need to understand other points of view to fully understand the issue and reasons for another opinion. In another’s words, we needto be willing to accept that we may change our view. A quote by Petit Price “What is essential is invisible to the eye”.

When I heard that Hoda Kotb was starting a new podcast called “Making Space”, I knew those two words were the key to Be Inclusive. Along with using the first two tools you begin by Hearing: every word that the other person is saying about their view. Clarifying: asking questions for more information or further description when it is an appropriate time to do so. Then Understanding: with your full self you have a complete and thorough knowledge of their view . Lastly Considering: allow yourself to see how that fits in with your thoughts, whether you could change your views, but regardless can accept that as a choice that can be made. Finally when we make space for other ideas, we retain this information which allows us to more civilly deal with any issue that we confront.

One last tip from a sign on Hy. 41 “Without Action, There is No Inclusion”.

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