

Courtesy of the Heart

If we are to become caregivers who are truly sensitive to the cultural needs and development of the children and families we serve, we must adopt an appropriate stance for our dialogues, for our work, and for our daily actions. I think the stance that best represents the one proposed by PITC is contained in the following quote from Goethe and the accompanying reading from the book “For Today” published by Overeaters Anonymous:

*There is a courtesy of the heart
it is akin to love
out of it arises
the purest courtesy in the outward behavior.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Courtesy of the heart may seem detached; it does not interfere with another’s decisions or give advice or need approval. It neither plays games nor passes judgment; it does not accept guilt or make others feel guilty with “Why didn’t you do it this way?” “What made you do that?” Courtesy of the heart does not distinguish between president and busboy, can never feel snobbish or superior, and is able to learn from everything and everyone. Courtesy of the heart welcomes new ideas and people, feels joy instead of fear, sees with fresh eyes and appreciates rather than criticizes what it sees.

For today: May I be one of those so blessed as to be able to show “courtesy of the heart” to all.