

It Doesn't Matter

It doesn't matter what a child
Looks like,
Smells like,
Thinks like.
They still feel.

It doesn't matter what a child
Learns like,
Speaks like,
Behaves like.
They still listen.

It doesn't matter who a child's parents are,
Where they live,
How much money they have,
What culture they follow.
Children don't care.

What does matter in the lives of children,
Yours, mine and others,
Is that we feel, we listen and we care.

Children are seedlings in the garden of life.
They need sunshine and warmth
When they are cold and sad.
They need water and nourishment
When they are thirsty and hungry.
They need attention and care
When they are challenged by life,
And they need to be loved, appreciated
And held in awe of their potential
To be unique, beautiful and like no other.

Search for the hero within yourself
And then be there for our kids.
Please feel, listen and care with your heart and soul and
You will become a valued gardener in the garden of life.
And one day
A child may hold a special memory of you forever,
Hidden deep in their heart.

— Maggie Dent, from *Saving Our Children from Our Chaotic World* (reprinted 2017).