

In today's fast-paced, information-saturated world, one of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the ability to communicate well and think critically. Long before they learn to drive a car or apply for their first job, our kids need to learn how to hold conversations, express themselves clearly, and respectfully listen to others—even when they don't agree.

Children are like sponges. From their earliest years, they pick up not only what we say, but how we say it. If they see us interrupt, argue, or dismiss someone else's perspective, they'll learn to do the same. But if we model patience, listening, and thoughtful responses, they'll carry those skills into friendships, classrooms, and eventually the workplace.

Healthy communication is more than talking. It's asking good questions. It's seeking to understand before rushing to respond. It's showing respect even when you disagree. Imagine how different our communities would be if children grew up truly valuing one another's voices. Social media is now one of the most common ways young people gather information. But the danger is clear: posts are often incomplete, biased, or outright misleading. That's why we must teach kids to go further than the quick headline or the "someone said."

Instead of forming instant opinions, encourage them to ask:

- Where did this information come from?
- What are the facts behind it?
- Have I heard more than one perspective?

By showing children how to research, read broadly, and seek out reliable sources, we give them tools to resist misinformation and to think critically before they speak. When children don't learn to communicate, disagreements quickly turn into fights. But when they know how to discuss—even debate—with respect, they can disagree without dividing. This is a lesson our nation desperately needs, and it begins at home and in classrooms. As parents, educators, and mentors, we must not only teach these skills but also live them daily. The next generation is watching.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- During our October outreach, we hosted Uncle Joey's boxing event, where kids had a fantastic time learning boxing skills! We also focused on addressing the "root" of issues by conducting thorough research rather than simply relying on hearsay or what others tell us.
- October proved to be our most active month for birthday celebrations!
- The NELA Christmas Child sponsorship program will begin on November 1.











## HAPPY BIRTHDAY Ivy, Laela, Sevin







PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank You for the precious minds and hearts of our children. In a world filled with noise and confusion, help them learn to listen with patience and speak with kindness. Teach them to value truth over opinion, understanding over argument, and respect over pride. Let their words build bridges and bring peace, not division. Give us, as parents and mentors, the grace to model wise communication—slow to speak, quick to hear, and rich in love. May the next generation rise up as voices of truth, empathy, and unity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAYER FOR THE KIDS
- Volunteer at our monthly outreach meetings
- Pizza (10-12) donation for our 1st Sat. outreach
- Snack size chips & drinks for outings
- Financial donations

Our mission is to awaken the God-given potential in every young person, guiding them to discover their true identity in Christ and walk boldly in their divine purpose. We are committed to investing not just in moments, but in lasting relationships and life-changing experiences that reflect the heart of Jesus. Through mentorship, life skills training, and fitness activities, we walk alongside youth facing overwhelming challenges—poverty, violence, trafficking, abuse, neglect, and the absence of parental guidance.

## **NELAYOUTH.ORG**



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