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ANNOUNCING *LITTLE KIDS, BIG HEARTS*, A NEW SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING PODCAST



NEW YORK — Sparkler Learning today announced the debut of *Little Kids, Big Hearts*, a new podcast that can help parents and educators introduce big topics in social and emotional learning to their children. The podcast is hosted by Todd Loyd, former artistic director of Sonnet Repertory Theatre, Inc. and longtime arts educator, who serves as a social-emotional learning coordinator and early childhood educator. *Little Kids, Big Hearts* will explore what it means to have a big heart and how to grow one with episodes focused on identity, feelings, friendship, and more.

“Children can experience the same kinds of crazy-mixed-up-scrambled-egg emotions and feelings as the adults in their lives,” Loyd said. “It has never been more important than it is this year, to help and support children in identifying and

expressing what they are thinking and how they are feeling.”

The podcast is part of a larger initiative, Big Heart World, a new effort presented by Sparkler Learning in partnership with Noggin. Big Heart World (www.bigheartworld.org) is focused on helping families and educators support children’s early childhood education and social and emotional learning. Big Heart World is a free and publicly available resource that aims to help parents and educators address the pressing social and emotional needs that America’s young children have right now during COVID-19 and to provide action-oriented tools and resources that help grown-ups support children’s healthy social and emotional development.

Each episode invites children to discuss an issue in social and emotional learning, helping each other to answer big questions like: What does it mean to be brave? How does it feel when you are angry? What are some ways we can help others?

The executive producer is Sparkler Learning, a non-profit family support and engagement organization, and the creative producer is Christy Pusz Decatur, a former Broadway actor and mother of two.

The first season will have 10 episodes, the first of which launches this week. It will be available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you listen, as well as on Big Heart World (www.BigHeartWorld.org/podcast).

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