

## **“Kindness Starts with i”**

by Marcia Stankard

One time I told my teacher, “Kindness starts with i”.  
She frowned and disagreed. I heard a heavy sigh.  
“Don’t be silly!” I answered, “thinking that I mean an I is like a K  
Of course I know my alphabet, but please see this my way!”

The word kindness starts with k, but acting kindly starts with me...  
And awesome things can happen when I behave that way, you’ll see...

You could do it also. I think you ought to try!  
Perhaps I should have said kindness starts with “u” and not with “i”!

Now, if we both act kindly  
If  $i + u = 2$   
We could tell two others, and four more would do it too!  
If four could tell four, we’re cooking!  
And eight could tell sixteen...  
Now do you understand  
why kindness starts with i, just what I mean?

And if you stop to ponder where all this kindness leads,  
Sparks of kindness flicker light and grows to be a flame  
The flame grows brighter and stronger...  
And blazes like the sun!  
Do you know any other thing so great started by just 1?

I hope you’ll start to join me, kindness math is so much fun!  
Every i gets added  
You treat each i as 1  
The bigger the number  
The better we’ve done!  
Like 1,000,000 is great,  
But what’s better?  
Of course! 1,000,0001