



National Reading Month Activities

Most appropriate for 3-5 year olds

Teacher:

Introduce the theme and concept of diversity and the emphasis that everyone is different and different is good. Something like “We are all different. We have different hair, different skin, different eyes, and we come in different shapes and sizes. We are going to discuss these differences a little more today.”

Ask the children to talk about their differences; ask them what color is their hair, what color are their eyes, what color is their skin. Encourage conversation about differences and that we should all love who we are and what we have.

Read: [“Chocolate Me!”](#) and/or [“Mixed Me!”](#) to the children

After reading, ask the children questions about the main character of the story, ask about the plot, ask what they thought about the book, ask them what they thought about the main character. Did he do the right thing? What was the moral of the story-teacher may need to help with this? Ask questions after each book and encourage children’s questions.

Activity: Different is beautiful

You will need:

8.5 x 11 construction paper

Colored yarn

Glue

Crayons (with different colors of browns, pinks, peaches, etc)

scissors

Hand out white pieces of construction paper with a circle already drawn on the center of the page. Tell the children that today they are going to be drawing and coloring their faces to go on the “Different is Beautiful” wall. The children will have access to multi colored crayons in different skin tones. Ask them to draw eyes and lips and ears onto the circle that will serve as a face. Then they should color in the skin, lips, and eyes to reflect the color of their face and eyes, etc. You

may also use yarn and with the teacher's help they can glue yarn onto the paper as hair. If needed, help them cut out the faces and the yarn. (The teacher will later put all the faces on the wall of the classroom under a title like "Different is beautiful" or "We celebrate our differences". Encourage children to do their best and remind them that there are no mistakes in art.)

Discussion: Your Culture and Identity (For class and parents)

Ask the children what their favorite family holiday is or what cultures or traditions they may celebrate at home. Can be a nationally celebrated holiday or something that is more traditional or cultural. Ask children what they do on the holiday, how they celebrate it, what foods they eat etc. Encourage children to share their responses.

Send home the artwork with a note asking the parents to talk to their children about the artwork and to share one part of their family's heritage with their child that they should be proud of (religion, nationality, region, language, customs, food or traditions, etc). Have the children return the artwork the next day.

Next Day Activity: Drawing our Favorite Holiday or Family Tradition

Collect their artwork and have them bring it up one by one for the teacher to hang on the Different is Beautiful Wall!

Ask the children to share what they learned from their parents and to draw a picture that represents what they most like about themselves today. (Could be a physical trait or it could be a food or tradition) Remind them that we are all different and different is beautiful.