

Activity 13 - It's Okay to Be Different

Grades: K - 3

Instructional Materials

- *I Accept You As You Are* book, by David Parker
- *It's Okay to Be Different* book, by Todd Parr
- large drawing paper
- markers or crayons

Enduring Understanding

Successful people exhibit the traits of creativity, goal setting, intelligence, courage, and kindness.

Guiding Question

How do people's differences make the world a richer place to live?

Introduction

Read *I Accept You As You Are* and allow time for discussion.

A. Have students list 5 ways they are the same as all the others in their class. (ten fingers, breathe air, can talk) Encourage students to list 5 ways they are different from others in their class. (name, physical appearance, pet's name)

B. Ask students what they think is more important: the similarities or the differences. Ask: Which makes the world more interesting, the similarities or the differences between people?

C. Read *It's Okay to Be Different*. Ask students to think about what is different about them that others do not know.

D. Have students draw a picture of how they are different and have them write a caption starting with, "It's okay....." Use the large drawing paper for this part of the activity.

E. Have students share their drawings. Explain that these differences add richness and uniqueness to our lives and are not reasons to dislike one another.

Assessment

Observe the discussion and view the students' drawings to see if they understood the value of differences.