

1 Building Connections and Being Inclusive Grades Kindergarten - Second Grade



Lesson Goals

- Build connections and group cohesion
- Explore similarities and differences
- Introduce Pathways of Change curriculum; establish routines and guidelines

SEL Competencies*

- **Self Awareness:** Recognizing strengths and self-perception
- **Social Awareness:** Developing empathy, perspective-taking, and appreciating diverse experiences
- **Relationship Skills:** Social engagement and relationship building

* Based on CASEL social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies

Classroom Activities

- Big Wind Blows
- Connection Mural

Optimistic Closing & Assessment

- Cool down and regulating activities: Breathing and mindfulness skills
- Students share "One thing I learned today"
- Evaluator will be present at each lesson to utilize an observational rubric of content and process
- Qualitative information received verbally from students at the end of each session to assess retention of lesson content

Materials

- Name tags
- Talking Stick
- Bell
- Large table cloth
- Large roll of paper
- Markers
- Hoberman Sphere
- Handouts for student toolkit

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Tips for Schools/Classrooms

- Acknowledge and celebrate each student's unique strengths and abilities
- Explore and normalize similarities and differences in individuals and families and ways to demonstrate respect to others
- Use family-inclusive language and plan activities that apply to a range of student experiences and recognize *all* adults/caregivers in a child's life

Tips for Parents/Caregivers

- Spend time with your child identifying and honoring what makes them unique
- Help children understand the importance of acknowledging similarities and differences among individuals and families
- Discuss with your child that interacting with individuals from different cultures, experiences, or viewpoints adds value, interest, and perspective to their lives

Resources for Schools/Classrooms

- [All Are Welcome](#)
- [Same, Same But Different](#)
- [Family Inclusive Language](#)
- [Introductory Lesson: What is a Family](#)
- [Let's Make All School Events Inclusive](#)

Resources for Parents/ Caregivers

- [Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You](#)
- [Same, Same But Different](#)
- [Family Inclusive Language](#)
- [We're Different, We're the Same](#)
- [A Family Is a Family Is a Family](#)