

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

CASEL COMPETENCY: SOCIAL AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILL: APPRECIATING DIVERSITY

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BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: *I'm Not Just a Scribble*

Author: Diane Alber

Publisher and date of publication: Diane Alber Art LLC, 2017

ISBN: 978-0-9912482-4-7

Number of pages: 26

Reading level: 2-3

Interest level: K-4

BOOK SYNOPSIS

There is a scribble named Scribble who is very happy. Scribble turns many different colors. One day he meets a beautiful picture of House. But, he does not have any colors. House doesn't approve of Scribble's lines and colors, even when Scribble offers to share his colors with House. Scribble also meets Sun and Clouds who also do not want anything to do with him. Eventually, House, Clouds, and Sun miss color, so Scribble forgives them, does a happy dance, and gives them another chance. He spreads his color all over and everything looks better than ever.

This book could be used to help students appreciate the unique characteristics and diversity of their classmates. If a student is struggling to see their own value, compared to their classmates, this story shows them that they have something to offer. If the student is looking down on their classmates, this book may help them appreciate individual differences because this variety strengthens the group, benefiting everyone.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is to help students appreciate diversity. This is an important part of making and strengthening friendships. Individual personalities are different. Each person's appearance, likes, and dislikes are unique. We all must learn to appreciate differences. Differences are OK. In fact, "variety is the spice of life."

LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

Materials

- 1 sheet of paper for each student
- Colored pencils, crayons, and/or markers
- Ball (plastic inflatable beach ball or a plush ball—something students can throw and catch)

KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Diversity: a variety of differences, a range of different qualities or characteristics

Unique: one of a kind, something that is not like the others

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Show the students the book cover. Ask them how the meaning of the title changes when the word "Not" is and isn't included. Does the story's title offer a clue about the story?

Ask the students if they have ever felt embarrassed for being different or if they have ever judged someone for being different. This story is about how we react to and appreciate differences.

READ THE BOOK

POST READING DISCUSSION

- How do you think Scribble felt when he was rejected by the other pictures?
- What made the others (Clouds, House, and Sun) decide to include and accept Scribble?
- How did their lives change once they included Scribble and worked together?
- What can we learn from Scribble, Clouds, House, and Sun?

POST READING ACTIVITY

Choose one of the following activities:

All ages:

Hand out the paper and drawing materials. Ask students to color a picture of something that is meaningful to them. Do not tell them what to draw. Just allow them to explore what they want to create. Once completed, ask the students to share what they colored. Compliment the things you appreciate and enjoy about their drawing. Hang their pictures up in the classroom. In doing this, students are able to create their own unique one-of-a-kind picture. Each picture is unique. The teacher's compliments model how to appreciate various styles of art.

Grades 2-6

Ask the students to stand in a circle. Before passing the ball, the student will say, "What I like about this person (person they are about to throw to) is _____." The student needs to pause after they make their statement, letting classmates wonder who this person might be. The student does not say the person's name. Instead, they throw the ball to the person, revealing the identity. Classmates will reflect on each students' positive traits. This is a way of complimenting and learning about one another. If the group is large, allow one compliment per person. Make sure that each student is eventually complimented.

CLOSURE

Wrap up the lesson with a few statements fortifying the lesson's objectives.

Challenge students to set a goal to express appreciation for others' unique talents by noticing and complimenting others. During the week, check in with students to monitor progress towards meeting their goal.

Post a visible reminder of the lesson's main objective (poster).

For the older students (grades 3-6), during the week, the following quotes might be used as writing prompts to reinforce this lesson's purpose or to initiate discussion.

- Variety is the spice of life.
- The more the merrier.
- One of the greatest regrets in life is being what others would want you to be, rather than being yourself. *Shannon L. Adler*
- Strength lies in differences, not in similarities. *Stephen R. Covey*
- Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization. *Mahatma Gandhi*
- Never judge someone by the way he looks or a book by the way it's covered. For inside those tattered pages, there's a lot to be discovered. *Stephen Cosgrove*

“Our diversity is our strength.
What a dull and pointless life it would be
if everyone was the same.”

- Angelina Jolie

