

# SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## SOCIAL SKILLS LESSON PLAN

### CASEL COMPETENCY: SELF-AWARENESS

### SOCIAL SKILL: SELF CONFIDENCE

Created by: Robyn Orr

#### BOOK INFORMATION

Book title: Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match

Author: Monica Brown

Illustrator: Sara Palacios

Publisher and date of publication: Children's Book Press, 2011

ISBN: 978-0-89239-235-3

Number of pages: 30

Reading level: 1-2

Interest level: K-6

#### BOOK SYNOPSIS

From her brown skin and orange hair to her clashing outfits to playing ninja pirates, to speaking Spanish and English in the same sentence, everyone tells Marisol that she does not match. But she appears happy with how she is. Her friend says he thinks she couldn't match even if she wanted to, so she tries to prove him wrong. She matches her outfit, plays pirates (without soccer), and eats peanut butter and jelly on bread instead of a tortilla. Her teacher sees that her art work is plain and Marisol cannot explain why she is trying to match. Her teacher gives her a note saying that she likes Marisol just the way she is. Marisol skips home. On Saturday and chooses to not match. Her parents take her to the pound and she chooses to adopt a dog whose ears go in different directions and whose eyes do not match. She names the dog Kitty.

This book could be used for students who need to understand that they are great just the way they are. This could be used for kids who have shown they are trying to conform. This could be good for multicultural students who may feel pressured to choose to adapt one culture or one language. They could benefit to see that their multiculturalism is one of the things that makes them interesting. (The book is written in both English and Spanish) so it could be a good opportunity to read it in both languages.

#### LESSON OBJECTIVE

The goal of this lesson is to help students embrace who they are regardless of what others say or the kind of messages they witness. Students should understand that they are great just the way they are.

## LESSON MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION

K-2 materials:

- A piece of large construction paper for each child
- A variety of media for students to choose from and trade with each other (paint, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pencils)

3-6 materials

- A piece of lined paper for each child
- A pencil for each child

Advance preparation:

- Bring non-matching clothing for the activity
- Write "Simply Marvelous" across the board

## KEY VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

Perrito: Puppy

Por favor: Please

Quizas: Maybe

Abuelita: an affectionate way to say Grandma

Multicultural: consists of several cultural or ethnic groups in a society

Embrace yourself: accept yourself willingly and with enthusiasm

## PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Put on some clothing that clearly do not match to get the students' attention. Ask the students what looks different about yourself. Ask them if you are the same person even when you do not match. Explain that the book is about a little girl who does not match, not just in her clothes, but in the things she does and says. Ask them to pay attention to how she feels about herself throughout the book.

## READ THE BOOK

## POST READING DISCUSSION

What are some of the ways that Marisol does not match? What of those things sounds fun? How did Marisol feel when she did not match? How do you feel when you do things you really like?

Show them the picture of her eating with her family discussing getting a dog. Ask them why they think she speaks in both English and Spanish? Why is that something good for Marisol?

Ask the students how Marisol felt when she tried to match. Why do you think she felt that way? How do you feel when you try to change who you are? Why does Marisol change her mind? Why does she choose the dog she did and name him Kitty?

## POST READING ACTIVITY

K-2: Have the students paint a picture like Marisol does. Have them title the picture "Simply Marvelous" by copying the letters from the board. Let them choose which art supplies to use and encourage them to use a few different kinds. Ask them to paint/color/draw what they like. Leave it open so they can draw what they like to do, say, wear, play, etc. Have students share with the class what is simply marvelous about themselves.

3-6: Ask students to make an acrostic poem using the letters of "Simply Marvelous" (or just "Marvelous" to save for time) on each line. Ask them to write something that makes them interesting on each line. Have students share with the class what is simply marvelous about themselves.

## CLOSURE

Explain to the students that when we embrace who we are, we are a lot more happy. Explain that sometimes people want us to be a certain way or choose between two different things you love, but you do not have to. Challenge the students to think this week about what they really love and to embrace that by doing them. Challenge students to encourage each other to be themselves even if they are different than you.



*"The most beautiful thing you  
can wear is confidence."  
- Blake Lively*