



Embrace Difference, Make a Difference

ACTIVITY KIT



Lead a Discussion!

From our favorite foods and activities to how our families look and the stories that we know, everyone is different! These differences, from the small and simple to the large and complicated, are important. We have to embrace our differences because the best way to show that you care about others is by listening to their stories, the boring and the exciting, the good and the bad.

Embracing difference strengthens our communities, and it feels good! Here are some helpful ideas for leading a discussion, which will encourage children to talk about and celebrate all the differences in their communities.

1. Be receptive. Don't argue with someone when they talk about the things they've experienced. They are the expert! Just because you have not experienced something, does not mean what they are saying is untrue. Set aside your judgments and listen.
2. Assume that people are telling the truth. Practice giving them the benefit of the doubt and try to put yourself in their shoes.
3. Ask questions. The best way to get to know someone is to ask them questions. If you don't ask questions, you make assumptions about other people's experiences.
4. Use respectful language. It is important to use correct terminology, especially when referring to ethnicities, gender identities, and abilities.
5. It's okay to be afraid. Conversations about differing life experiences can be tough and you will make mistakes. Don't be afraid to make a mistake and apologize.

Kick off the conversation by reading one of the following books:

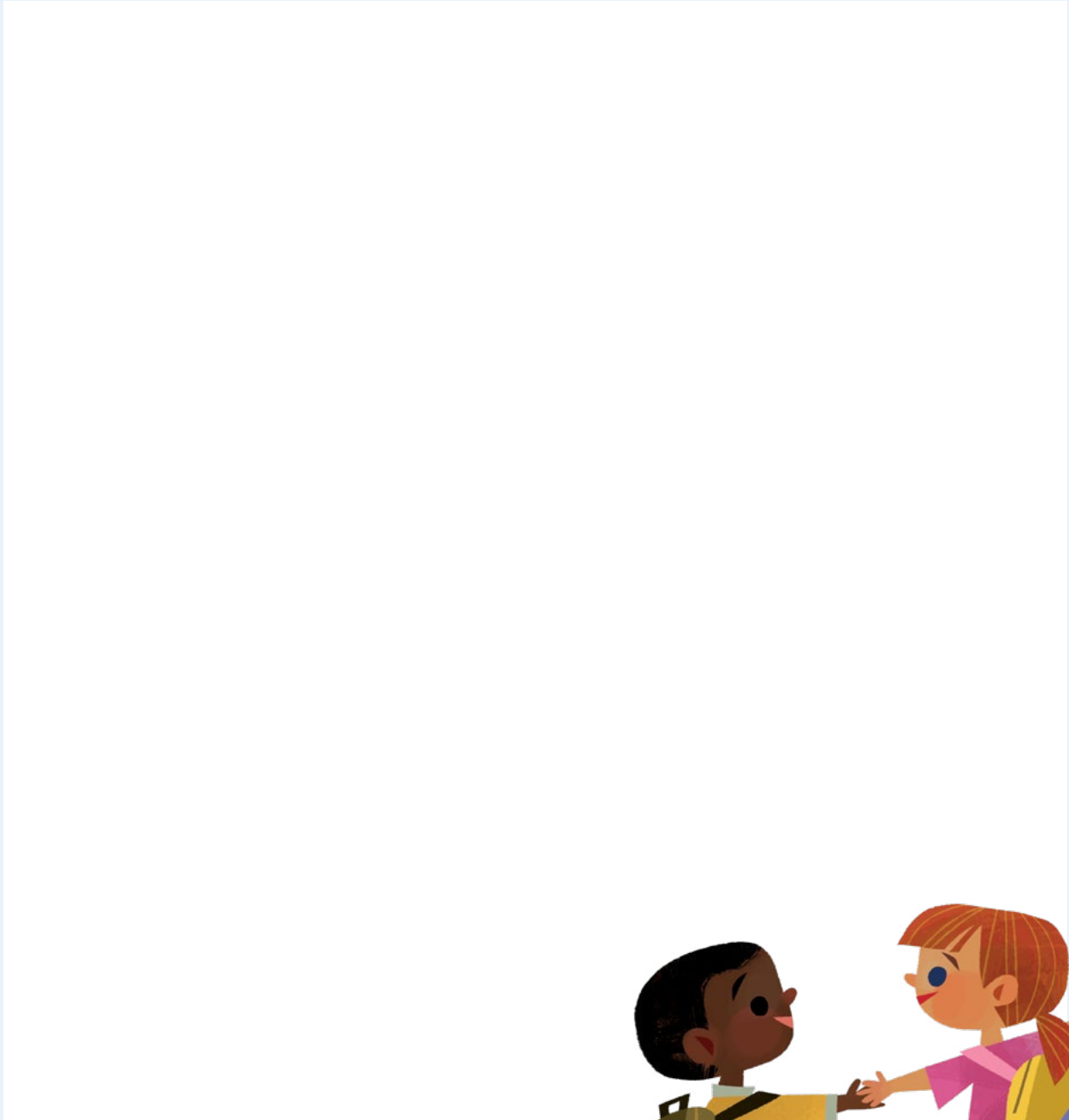
- *Ways to Welcome* by Linda Ashman; illustrated by Joey Chou
- *All Welcome Here* by James Preller; illustrated by Mary GrandPré
- *Black is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy; illustrated by Ekua Holmes
- *I Am Perfectly Designed* by Karamo Brown and Jason "Rachel" Brown; illustrated by Anoosha Syed
- *The Word for Friend* by Aidan Cassie
- *Finding Kindness* by Deborah Underwood; illustrated by Irene Chan

Here are some questions to start the conversation after reading:

- Look at the characters in the book. What differences do you notice?
- Do you think their lives are different from each others'? How?
- Do the people in the book remind you of people you know? How?
- Choose a character from the story. Why did you choose that character?
- What more do you want to know about the character you chose?

In What Ways Are YOU Welcoming?

There are a lot of ways to welcome friends from everywhere!
Draw all the ways that you welcome others.



Ways to Welcome
by Linda Ashman;
illustrated by Joey Chou

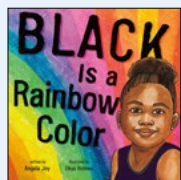
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Leading a Discussion About *Black Is a Rainbow Color*

1. Learn about the individuals shown in the book and find photographs of them online. Talk to the children about how these people made a difference in their communities.
2. As you're reading, point to the pictures that illustrate descriptions of "black." Afterward, say: "Black is a rainbow color. Black is..." and have the children complete the sentence. If a child says something inappropriate, address why those words might be hurtful, and redirect with an example from the book.
3. Have children sit facing a partner. Each child says, "My name is ____ and I like to be called ____" Their partner repeats "You like to be called ____" Talk about the importance of respecting how other people see themselves.



Black Is a Rainbow Color
by Angela Joy;
illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Make Your Wwn “Welcome” Sign!

Decorate this welcome sign, and ask an adult to help you cut it out and tape it up in an inviting place.

All
Welcome
Here



All Welcome Here
by James Preller;
illustrated by Mary GrandPré

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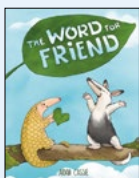
The Word for Friend Word Search

Kemala struggles with learning a new language in *The Word for Friend*, but she soon learns that the most universal language of all is friendship. Help her discover all the different words about embracing differences and friendship in this word search puzzle.

E	R	W	E	O	L	B	S	Y	G	W	U
M	C	A	I	E	X	G	T	S	Z	L	H
B	T	W	O	R	D	S	O	I	A	D	E
R	A	Y	S	I	E	X	R	M	R	I	X
A	M	H	W	T	A	P	Y	L	J	F	I
C	E	G	E	N	B	H	M	C	Z	F	U
E	O	P	L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	K
B	E	I	C	S	X	D	O	R	T	R	M
S	C	H	O	O	L	R	Z	I	U	E	W
K	C	O	M	L	F	U	E	N	R	N	G
I	N	V	E	S	T	I	G	G	T	C	R
Q	W	G	D	E	K	L	W	X	L	E	Z
E	O	T	P	F	R	I	E	N	D	A	D

FRIEND
WORDS
LANGUAGE
CARING
EMBRACE

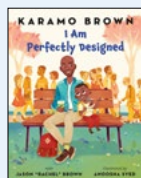
WELCOME
DIFFERENCE
SCHOOL
STORY



The Word for Friend
by Aidan Cassie

Draw a Picture of Your Family

Love who you are, exactly as you are. Whether you look more like your dad or your mom, you just look like you. Embrace your differences because you are perfectly designed!



I Am Perfectly Designed
by Karamo and Jason "Rachel" Brown;
illustrated by Anoosha Syed

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Where Do You See Kindness?

When you embrace differences, you show that you care! Look at the people in the scene below engaging in acts of kindness and showing the people in their community that they care. Can you find all five acts of kindness? Circle each one.



Finding Kindness
by Deborah Underwood;
illustrated by Irene Chan

Discover More Books About Embracing Differences

