

Potential Integration:

ELA

<b>Health</b>
1.ICR.1.2 Explain the value of having a diversity of students in the classroom.

**Materials:**

- Bring ingredients to make a simple salad (lettuce, tomato, carrots, peppers, croutons, dressing)
- Butcher or chart paper
- Small stickers (1/2 circles work well)
- Puzzle with the number of pieces as you have students in the classroom (most Dollar Stores have 25 piece puzzles)

**Focus Step:**

Place all of the ingredients for the salad in a canvas or paper bag so that students cannot see what is available. Tell the students that today we are going to make a tasty salad for a very important guest. This salad has to taste delicious and ask for help. Ask for one volunteer to come to the front of the room and find one item to put in the salad first. After the student selects the item ask the class if our salad is ready for a very special guest? Ask why not – students may say you need more ingredients or it will not taste very good. Ask why not again – until students begin to articulate that it takes a lot of different ingredients to make a salad special and tasty. Show students all of the different items you have in the bag and ask them if this salad would taste better and why? Process the value of having differences in making this salad taste better.

**Statement of Objectives:**

Today’s lesson is going to focus on the importance and value of differences among us. By the end of the lesson, you will be able to explain the value of having differences in our class.

**Teacher Input:**

No two people are alike and while we have lots of similarities, we also have differences that make us special and unique. We all have different families, experiences, and different talents.

Explain to students that there are lots of differences we can see and lots of differences that we cannot see. Ask students to brainstorm some of the differences we can see – height, eye color, hair color, etc. Create a poster chart with the variations that exist in the classroom on the X-axis of the chart. Give the students multiple stickers or dots and ask students to walk around the class (or pass the chart to each table) and place their dot under the category that fits for them.

Ask the class to brainstorm some ways that we are not noticeably different – example talented in math or reading, artist, athlete, plays an instrument, creative writer etc. Create a few charts that list these differences across the X-axis as well and have students vote or place their dots by the attributes they identify with most.

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As a class process how similar and different we are and that it is our differences that will help us be successful this year.

**Assessment:**

Distribute a puzzle piece to each student and ask the student to think about what makes him or her unique and special and to write that on the back of their puzzle piece. After everyone has a chance to write his/her special talent or gift on the puzzle pieces, begin to build the puzzle one piece at a time. When it is finished take one or two pieces out and ask the class how the puzzle looks – they will find that they do not like it. The puzzle works best when every one of different shapes, sizes, colors, and gifts works and fits together. Have the students write about their special talents and gifts that make them unique and special with two supporting details. Students should also write two sentences about how our differences make our class better.

**Closure:**

Leave the puzzle in the classroom to remind students that our differences help to make our class special and that everyone is needed in order to have a successful classroom.