



Lesson Concepts

- Having empathy helps you understand and accept how others are the same as or different from you.
- Accepting and appreciating others' differences is respectful.

Key Words

Similar, different, accept, appreciate, individual

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Name similarities and differences between people
- Predict how others will feel when teased for being different

Materials

- CD player and *Sing and Step* CD
- Lesson Card 7
- Lesson 8 Handout, one per student
- Following Through Card 8
- Empathy poster
- All Skills for Learning cards (as needed)
- Colored pencils for each student

Why This Lesson Matters

Practice in finding things they have in common with other students can help children develop empathy and avoid the stereotyping that can fuel teasing and other forms of bullying. Teasing is a very common and hurtful form of bullying, and it is important for children to understand that it is wrong.

Teaching Notes

Discussing the topic of teasing may evoke strong feelings in students who have been victims of this form of bullying. Take care to acknowledge students' feelings as they arise. Alert the school counselor or psychologist if a particular student needs more specialized assistance.

Today's Brain Builder is similar to the Lesson 7 Home Link activity.

Warm-Up

Introduction and Review

Have students sit. Show Lesson Card 7. Use the Wrap-Up to review. **Today you'll learn about accepting people's differences.**

Brain Builder: Common Ground

Have students stand, facing their partners. **Let's play Common Ground. You and your partner will learn ways you're alike—or similar—and ways you're different. The space between you and your partner is your "common ground." When you jump to it, it means you've found something in common.** Practice the steps slowly. Remind students to use their Skills for Learning. Cue skill use with the Skills for Learning cards. **Let's play!**

1. Read the question out loud.
2. Students show a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.
3. Partners with the same answer step together, then slap hands. Partners with different answers squat down.

Questions

Do you like: Eating fish? Studying science? Building models? Going on field trips? Climbing ropes?

Play a few rounds. Increase the challenge as desired (see Following Through Card 8). **Raise your hand if you and your partner found several ways you're alike.** Comment on the number of hands up. **You found a lot of common ground! Think about the ways you are similar and different.** Give think-time. **You'll need to remember them for today's skill practice.**

Story and Discussion

Have students sit down. **Let's learn about two students who find something they have in common and learn to accept their differences.** Show the photo. **Here are Yasaman and Olivia. Yasaman recently joined Olivia's third-grade class.**

1. **Look at the photo and think about ways that Olivia and Yasaman appear different.** (Clothing, ethnicity.) **Yasaman comes from Iran. She wears different clothing from Olivia. English is not her first language. Sometimes Olivia laughs when other students tease Yasaman for being different.**
2. **Why would some of the students laugh at Yasaman?** (She's different. They don't understand how she acts. They don't consider how she feels.)



Yasaman

Olivia

3. **How do you think Yasaman feels when students tease and laugh at her?** (Sad, hurt, embarrassed.) **Teasing or laughing at someone because he or she is different is not respectful.**

4. **Look at the photo again and think about ways the girls are similar.** Give think-time. (Both are girls. Both are third-graders. Both are doing art.)

Point to the photo. **Olivia notices that Yasaman is really focused on her art project. Olivia also enjoys doing art. She's interested in learning how to make the designs Yasaman is making.**

 5. **Think about how Olivia could get to know Yasaman better.** Give think-time. **Turn and tell your partner your ideas.** (Comment on her designs. Ask to learn how to draw the designs. Invite her to play at recess.)

Olivia decides to be assertive and comment on Yasaman's designs. Yasaman explains that they are traditional designs from Iran. She teaches Olivia how to make one. Later, they play together at recess. Yasaman and Olivia are becoming friends.

 6. **Think about what Olivia could say to the other students at school if they tease or laugh at Yasaman again.** Give think-time. **Turn and tell your partner your ideas.** (Teasing hurts people, and it's against the rules! People deserve to be treated with respect. Think about how you'd feel if we laughed at you!)

7. **What can help Olivia and the other students feel or understand how Yasaman might be feeling?** (Imagine being her. Remember when they were teased.) Point to the Empathy poster. **Having empathy helps you understand things from someone else's perspective. This helps you accept and appreciate others' differences. Accepting people's differences is respectful.**

Let's listen to "The Empathy Song." Show a thumbs-up each time you hear what "empathy" means.

Play the song.

Skill Practice

Today's activity will help you get to know your partner better. Knowing people better helps you accept and appreciate their differences.

Think about the ways you learned you and your partner were similar and different during today's Brain Builder. Think about something you'd like to learn from your partner, like how Olivia wanted to learn how to make designs from Yasaman.

Have students sit with their *Second Step* partners. Distribute one copy of the Lesson 8 Handout plus colored pencils to each student. Read the directions out loud. Give students about ten minutes to complete the handout. When students are finished, have the class discuss their thoughts and feelings about the activity.

Show a thumbs-up if you learned something new about your partner. Comment on the number of thumbs up. **The more you know someone, the more you can appreciate that person as an individual.**

Wrap-Up

Today you learned about noticing similarities and accepting people's differences. Accepting differences shows _____ (respect). What can help you understand another person's perspective? (Empathy.) Having empathy and showing respect help you get along with others.

Following Through: Skills and concepts are retained best when regularly practiced and reinforced. See Following Through Card 8.