

Theme: Me, I'm Special

Day 1

Daily Objectives: To develop a positive sense of self
To introduce classroom rules
To develop an understanding of how we are alike and how we are different
To develop fine motor skills

Daily Materials: 1 piece of posterboard
Enrichment Sheet #1
Construction paper
Name tag per child
Old magazines
Chart paper
1 popsicle stick per child

Group Activity # 1

Ahead of time, make a nametag for each child. Hide the nametags throughout the classroom. After all of the children have gathered for group time announce a "Name Tag Search." Have each child look for his/her own nametag. Once each child finds his/her nametag, he/she can put it on and return to the group. Teach the children the chant "The Name Game."

The name game,
The name game,
We're all going to play
the name game.
My name is (child's name)
And I like (something to eat).

Have the children clap their hands or slap their legs as they do the chant. Let each child have a turn to fill in the blank with his/her own name and what he/she likes to eat. After all of the children have had a turn discuss how some of them like the same foods while others liked different foods. Let the children suggest other ways that they are alike and different.

Follow-up Activity #1

Introduce the concept of making an "All About Me" book to the children. Show the children the first page... "Things I Like" (Enrichment Sheet #1). Have each child cut the sheet in half where indicated. Next give each child an old magazine, crayons/markers, glue and scissors. Ask the children to look through the magazine to find pictures of things that they like. Have the children cut out the pictures and glue them to the sheet. Repeat the process for the "Things I Don't Like" page. Staple the pages together. When finished, encourage each child to dictate a sentence about the pictures he/she placed on the pages. Write the sentence on each page and "read" it with the child. Be sure to help each child write his/her name on the page!

Group Activity #2

Take the children on a tour of the school. As you walk through the school, discuss the school rules with the children. Make sure to point out where the restrooms, school nurse, office and any other important areas in your school are located. You may even want to stop in to visit the principal! Next, return to the classroom and take a “classroom” tour. Visit each of the activity areas in your classroom and discuss the materials and rules for each area. After visiting each area, return to group time and let the children help write the general rules for the classroom. Discuss the importance of rules with the children and ask them to suggest rules they feel would be appropriate for their classroom. As the children dictate the rules, write what they say on the chalkboard or chart paper. It is very important during this activity to accept all of their suggestions. Have the children vote on which rules they feel are the most important. During the voting, you will be able to guide their responses to fit your general ideas of classroom rules. Copy the chart onto a piece of posterboard and display it in the classroom where you can review it with the children frequently.

Follow-up Activity #2

Give each child a piece of construction paper and crayons/markers. Divide the children into pairs. Have each child trace his/her partner’s hand onto the construction paper. After the hands are traced, have each child cut out his/her own hand and decorate it. You will be using these for your classroom helper chart. After the children have finished decorating their “helping hands,” tape a popsicle stick to the back of each hand and place these aside. As a follow-up, encourage each child to draw a picture of some of the classroom rules he/she learned today.

Enrichment Activities

Read the book “First Day of School” by Helen Oxenbury and encourage the children to relate their experiences with the first day of school to the story.

As a group, have the children dictate a language experience story about their first day of school.

Have the children each dictate a letter, or draw a picture to send to the principal or the school nurse.

Reinforcement Activities

Gather a basket of objects from various areas of the classroom. Allow the children to sort the objects into the appropriate activity areas.

Read the book “Timothy goes to School” by Rosemary Wells and let the children create a classroom mural about their first day at school.