

Extension activity for ZIPPER – THE KID WITH ADHD by Caroline Janover

Materials:

Copy of *Zipper – The Kid with ADHD*

Note to teacher: This book has an appendix at the back of the book which provides an overview of ADHD. It would be appropriate for you to read the appendix and then decide how much of it you want to share with either the whole class or with a particular student.

Pre-reading aloud/introduction:

Remind the students about the disabilities web activity they participated in during The Cromwell Center program. Refer to web left with class or ask students if they remember some names of disabilities. If they don't volunteer ADD/ADHD, remind them about that one

Ask students what they remember about ADD/ADHD. What do people with this have difficulty doing? Explain that Zipper is a book about a boy who struggles with many of those same things.

During reading:

SAY: "As I read the story, raise your hand whenever you hear something that Zipper has difficulty doing. I will write them on a chart. At the end of the story we will talk more about them."

Post reading:

Using the chart created during the reading of the book, add a second column with the heading *What Helped Zipper*, making a T-chart.

Discuss what was difficult for Zipper and what helped him.

Zipper's friendship with Picking Pete was very important to both characters. Discuss why and how that friendship was important. Allow students to share, or have all write about, an important friendship/relationship they have or would like to have with an older person and why it is important to them.

Extension activity:

In the end, Zipper's focus on playing the drums helped him stay calm and focused.

Divide into small groups. Each group will:

1. Discuss what activities or techniques help them stay focused or calm.
2. Create poster of ideas that the group comes up with. Posters can include pictures or words – or both.
3. Have each group share their poster and let each student explain what they do and why.
4. Hang up the posters. Remind students that when they are having a hard time staying calm or focused, they might find something on the posters to help them.
5. Hang a blank poster on which students may add suggestions whenever they think of one.

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