

More Alike Than Different?

We are all more alike than different! Here's a fun activity to help kids think about the fact that differences are what make us unique individuals, and that disabilities are just one part of who a person is. This activity works best with several people.

Gather 5-6 pieces of the same type of fruit in a basket or bowl—bananas OR lemons OR oranges OR apples.

If I had never seen a lemon/banana/apple/orange (whatever fruit you use) before but needed to buy one in the store, what would it look like? Write responses down. (Example for lemons: yellow, oval, pointy ends...)

Each person should pick up a piece of fruit and look at it very carefully so he or she would be able to pick it out again from the bowl/basket. No one should mark or change the fruit in any way.

Put the fruit back in the bowl or basket and mix them back up.

Now, each person should find and pull out the piece of fruit they looked at earlier.

Ask:

- How did you know it was “your” lemon/banana/orange/apple? (Write the responses on a separate list.)
- Why did no one tell me they found their lemon because it was yellow, round (things from 1st list)? Have children point out that one list is how lemons are the same & other is different. (Same process goes for other fruit you may use.)

Let's think about people...can we sometimes have things in common with people (same)? Have students list a few things. Can we sometimes have things that make us different? Have students list a few things. (The list tends to be physical traits such as we all have skin, we all have hearts)

Let's think about how we think and learn...do we all think and learn differently?

If someone takes longer to learn something or needs extra help do you think that they could get teased or made fun of?

Use an example like reading: If someone takes longer with reading/needs extra help/leaves the class to go to a place that works better for them are there other "things" that may be easier for them and that they are really good at?

Let's also think about the "flip side" of that: if someone is a great reader is it possible there may be other "things" that take them longer or that they need extra help with?

Think about yourselves...do we all have "things" that we are good at and other "things" that may take us longer or that we need extra help with?

- Even though they are all the same in some ways, they are different in others, and it was those differences that allowed you to pick out “your” piece of fruit.. But despite these differences, are they all still lemons (or oranges or bananas)?