Building Belonging
A toolkit for early childhood educators

The Educator Guide contains:

- Linkages to the Early Years Learning Framework and other educational standards
- Information about building cultural competence
- Practical ideas for encouraging appreciation of cultural diversity
- Strategies for addressing racial prejudice
‘All my friends and me’ E-Book

Lesson Plans

Let’s make a rainbow
Lesson Plan 1

Stage: Preschool
Year Group: 3-4 year olds
Reader notes: Words in bold italics are vocabulary focus areas.
Further resources to support this lesson are available at: www.humanrights.gov.au/building-belonging

Intentional Teaching:
This activity aims to prompt children to think about the similarities and differences between themselves and others in terms of skin, hair and eye colour. Using the universally recognisable image of a rainbow as a stimulus, children will discuss and explore their own thoughts and feelings about colour and personal identity.

Aims and Objectives:
• Openly express feelings and ideas
• Respond to ideas and suggestions from others
• Become aware of similarities, similarities and differences between people
• Begin to develop a strong sense of who they are and their shared identity as Australians
• Begin to recognise and order colours relating to the natural world (rainbow)

EYLF Learning Outcomes:
Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity. 1.3 Children feel safe, secure and supported. 1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with awareness, empathy and respect.
Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world. 2.2 Children respond to diversity with respect.

Australian Curriculum Learning Outcomes:
English: Language
L2CCL109: Use interaction skills including listening while others speak, using appropriate volume levels, articulation and body language. gestures and eye contact.
The Arts: Visual Arts
NAVA1006: Create and display artworks to communicate ideas to an audience.

Key Vocabulary:
• Critical, different, match, intercultural, express, judge, fair, unfair, similarities, outcomes, self-reflective.

Resources:
• Two or more parcels wrapped in different coloured or patterned paper

Supplied objects to include (aside the parcels: dried beans, pine cones, pebbles, dried pasta, stones in different colours, shapes and sizes (the objects must be the same type of item but with physical differences)

Two decorated eggs

Accompanying resource
Play dough mat (provided at the end of this lesson plan)

Introductory Phase:
1. Gather the children together in a circle on the ground and explain that you have a special activity planned for them.
2. Ask the children to close their eyes. Lay out two (or more) boxes wrapped in contrasting paper so they look different to one another.
3. Tell the children to open their eyes. What do they see?
4. What do they think is in each parcel? Hear some suggestions and ask them why they think this.

Main Activity:
5. Explain to children that they are only going to open one parcel. (Which one do they want to open?) Take a vote and go with the majority.
6. Open the chosen box and feel the contents. Explore the objects inside. Are the children surprised by what they find? Are the contents different to what they expected? Do they like the contents? What do they like or dislike about the contents?

Encouraging respect for cultural diversity

Early childhood is an ideal time for children to learn about and form friendships with people from different cultures, races and ethnicities.

Here are 3 simple ways you can encourage respect for cultural diversity in your setting...

Explore similarities and differences
Emphasise how we are all special and unique in our own way but share many things in common.

Challenge stereotypes
Identifying and challenging harmful stereotypes is an important way of preventing prejudice.

Discover more about different cultures and different families
Discover new things about different cultures, families and communities through art, music, stories, museums, libraries and festivals. Find out more about different families’ customs, values and beliefs.

Find out more ways to build belonging in your centre here:

Tackling tricky questions about racial identity

Children’s natural curiosity about difference provides a great opportunity to discuss cultural diversity and racial identity.

Sometimes this can lead to questions that don’t have easy answers. Here are 3 simple things you can do...

Be open
It’s important not to avoid or ignore tricky questions or comments. Instead, find out more about why your child is asking.

Be honest
Answer questions simply and factually. You don’t have to be an expert, but make sure to give the correct information. If you don’t know the answer to a question, then find out more together!

Be a role model
Children learn the most from our words and actions so it’s important to lead by example.

Find out more ways to build belonging in your centre here:

### ‘Colours of Australia’ song

**Colours of Australia**

I spy with my little eye,
Blue and brown and green.
Open, blinking wide and shining,
The brightest eyes I've ever seen.
*I see colours, colours everywhere! The colours of Australia, the beauty we all share.

I spy with my little eye,
Blonde and black and red.
Straight and long,
Curls and strong.
Different hair on different heads.
*I see colours, colours everywhere! The colours of Australia, the beauty we all share.

I spy with my little eye,
White and tan and brown.
Chu-chu-rus, nooses,
Shoulder and toes.
Healthy skin is all around.
*I see colours, colours everywhere! The colours of Australia, the beauty we all share.

We're lucky to live in a colourful world,
With lots of boys and lots of girls,
We all look different but on the inside,
We have the same heart and we wear it with pride!
*I see colours, colours everywhere! The colours of Australia, the beauty we all share.

‘Colours of Australia’ song

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[Website Link]