

Session 2

Crossing Divides

Key learning

Children will learn that while we are all different and unique, we can find common ground by being curious and open to learning about others' stories, challenging assumptions, and embracing our differences.



Before the session

You will need:

- Slides for this session, with sound
- Paper plates/plain paper
- Skin tone paint and colouring pencils
- A copy of *My World, Your World* by Melanie Walsh
- Tablet or camera
- Flower template for optional activity (provided in the resources)

Notes

Story

Be Curious (Community)

Notes



Song

Play the song *Just the Way You Are* by iSingPop.

Explain that in this session, we are beginning to explore the idea that we are all different and unique, yet we may share some similar interests.

Show the children a picture of a 'familiar scene' (a park scene) and encourage them to engage in partner talk to think about key questions:

- What can you see?
- Have you been to a park before?
- What is your favourite piece of equipment to explore?
- What would you go on first?
- What would happen if we all wanted to play on the swings/go on the slide?
- Would our time at the park be fun?

Draw on the differences that children have highlighted and ask, "Does it matter? Can we all still be friends?"

Storybook

Read the book *My World, Your World* by Melanie Walsh to your class.

This will allow them to explore differences across cultures in a simple yet powerful way.

Children re-enact the story (whole class or groups) recognising differences, then similarities.

Ask:

- Does it matter if (*say a name*) doesn't wear the same shoes? Or eat the same food?

Continuous Provision Activities

Option 1:

'All about me' film

Children engage in role-play or make a film (adult supervision required) that captures what they like/enjoy. Include things that are common/similar for them also. Invite them to explain why they like and enjoy what they do and reference that our differences make us stronger and more curious about others.

Option 2:

Paper plate self-portraits

Invite the children to create a self-portrait using a paper plate. Provide small mirrors so they can carefully observe their facial features; such as their eye colour, hair, and expressions. Encourage them to notice and celebrate what makes them unique as they draw, paint, or collage their self-portraits. This activity helps children develop self-awareness and a sense of identity.

It is important for children to have skin-toned paints and pencils when creating their portraits because it helps them see and represent the diversity of skin colours in their artwork. For children ages 4-5, using these colours encourages self-expression and allows them to create more personal and meaningful drawings. It also creates inclusivity and helps all children feel valued and represented, promoting a positive understanding of themselves and others from an early age.



Option 3:

'All about me' flower

Ask the children to complete the flower template based on their own preferences and interests. Children are free to draw/write their entries.

These flowers can be used to create a classroom 'All about me' display.

Sanctuary

Reimagine (Power)

Notes



Bible passage

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Psalms 139:14 (NIV)

This verse reminds us that everyone is made in a special and wonderful way. We are all different, and that makes the world more interesting and beautiful. We can feel happy and proud of who we are and be kind to others who are different too.



Reflection

You may want to read this reflection aloud to your pupils.

Did you know that being different is amazing? Some of us are good at drawing, some at running, and others love singing or building. When we share our special talents, we have even more fun together!

Let us always be kind and enjoy our differences. We can all be friends, no matter what, because our differences make our friendships extra special! Isn't that awesome?



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for making each of us special and unique. Even though we are all different, you made us so we can all be friends and learn from each other.

Help us remember that our differences make us stronger and better together.

Teach us to love and help one another, just like Jesus does.

Amen.

 **Notes**



End of session 2

difference.