



DIVERSITY



3-6



12-15



15/40



HOW TO UNDERSTAND DIVERSITY - Based on Story Books



Goal:

- to promote positive attitudes to diversity and difference within all children.
- to develop children's language in their play.

Be sure about having appropriate challenges for gifted and talented children.

Avoid gender/ethnicity/religious stereotyping and any expression of prejudice by children or caregivers.



As preparation read one storybook about diversity, surrounded by children.

Hint:

Next day play puppet theater or paper theater (kamishinbai) or shadow theater about the same story.

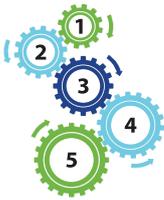
Bring them as diverse materials as possible (smells and scents, colors). They will understand what diversity means in that case.

About kamishinbai: <http://www.kamishinbai.com/>

Prepare:

vinaigrette, wad, oil, lavender, lemon, fir, orange, rose water, basil, oregano, parsley, garlic, aniseed.

lemon, orange, apple, banana, avocado, grapes.



Follow the instructions in a 3 step method: Preparation, Theater, Discovery.

Preparation (15')

- Look for some storybooks about diversity - which are related to tolerance and empathy. For example the following storybooks are related to diversity:

Anna Nilsen: *Bella's Butterfly Ball*, Koala Books, 2012

David Mills - Derek Brazell: *Lima's Red Hot Chilli*, mantra, 2003

Judith Kerr: *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, Harper Collins Children's Books, 2006

Joshan Wright Callender: *Happy Little Garbage Truck*, Matjo International 2018

Mary Albert: *How birds got their colours - An aboriginal story*, AN ASHTON ORIGINAL, 1983

Sam McBratney: *Just You and Me*, WALKER BOOKS, 2003

- Pick one of the mentioned books and read the book surrounded by children.
- Try to use as big books as possible, in order to see from everywhere.
- Talk about the moral lesson.

Discuss them about their diverse environment, diversity among them related to their obvious differences (eyes, hair, height, gender, ethnicity, mother tongue, etc.) Let them know they are equally important within the group. They might be familiar with Madagascar or Happy feet animated movies, by mentioning those, they might understand more the topic.

Theater (10')

The following day introduce same story using puppets or paper theater (kamishinbai) or shadow theater. Prepare the puppets, figures needed in advance.

Later during the day they will copy you. Let them play with the same storytelling technique. They will create similar stories.

Discovery (30')

Try as much diverse items as possible.

Try smells e.g. fruits, herbs.

Discover the variety of colors.

1. Prepare small vinaigrettes with a little wad, with few drops of volatile oil. Make sure nobody is allergic for any of it. Try lavender, lemon, fir, orange, rose water. (You can try with spices as well eg. basil, oregano, parsley, garlic, aniseed)

Let them try and guess one-by-one about the plant.

2. Prepare card boxes cut out one side each, and put a fruit inside, hide it. Make them guess about the fruit, by touching it. Try lemon, orange, apple, banana, avocado, grapes, etc. Ask them, to explain about the taste of each. (You can try with vegetables as well, but do not mix fruits and vegetables.)

Let them try and guess one-by-one about the fruit.

3. Prepare Flashcards with different colors.

Ask them to identify colors. Try with basic colors with younger ones, try a little bit more difficult to name with older ones (e.g. burgundy, olive, tan, tuscan red, sand).

Give them primary colors paints and let them play with, it will be an colour experiment, explain how to make green, violet and orange.

As a final step, let them paint a picture using any colors they created.