

CULTURE



3-6 years



**Group of 6
children**



COLOURS OF US



45 minutes



Respect, dialogue and active citizenship:

- recognizing and respecting the different skin shades;
- identifying and naming the skills that make us special;
- developing fine motor skill while mixing the different shades of brown.



List of needed materials :

- The Colours of us by Karen Katz textbook or handout or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PwCkX59WBo>
- Pictures with the characters
- Colours : red, yellow, black, white, paintbrushes, water, paper towels
- A large wrapping brown paper
- Cinnamon, peanut-butter, chocolate, cupcake, peach, coconut, coffee grain, hoeny, ginger powder, chili powder, autumn leaves, butterscotch, French toast, toffee or images showing these foods, chocolate bars of different brown shades





1. Facilitators must print out the characters from the book or print out the screenshots from the video and arrange the pictures on a wall as they appear in the story, starting with Lena. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PwCkX59WBo>

2. Initially the whole group sits in a circle together with the facilitator and they play the following game : I can see something blue in this room. What is it? The other children have to guess what it is. A ball/ the carpet/ the curtains. Each children will ask a question, but they must use a different colour: red, yellow, grey, black.

3. This short introduction is followed by the facilitator's questions, who will show the foods and ingredients and will encourage children to name their colour. After a few seconds, children will realize, that all of them have the basic brown colour, but with different shades.

4. The facilitator presents the main character from the story, Lena and says that they are going to take a walk together with Lena. They are going to hear a story told by a little girl.

5. They join their hands and go for a walk along the wall where the pictures had been previously stuck. Children listen to the story and look carefully to the pictures on the wall. And they move slowly to the next picture as the story goes on.

6. When they finish the walk they sit in a circle and children are encouraged to say which colour did they like, who was their favourite character.

7. After that, they are invited to try to describe their skin shade also by using the name of foods or drinks: yellow and white vanilla ice cream, yellow banana, coffee with milk.

8. The facilitator explains them that there is one colour, brown, but there are different shades. Children can have some chocolate and taste them. They will all agree that they all like chocolate, but the pieces have different taste. This is what makes them special.

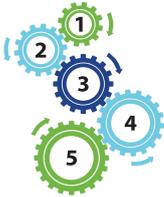
9. The facilitator let children know that they are also special, and asks them to show something that makes them really special: sing a song, show a trick, make a funny face, make a drawing, color something,

10. After that children sit around a table and they will mix the colours, they will try to mix the colour that their hand has got. After finding the right shade they will colour their palms and print it on the wrapping paper. They will be also encouraged to try out different shades and make as many prints as they want on the wrapping paper.

11. At the end they will write their names above the handprints.

Make sure that children can wash their hands after making the handprints or use the paper towels.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PwCkX59WBo>

Handout: The colours of us by Karen Kats

My name is Lena, and I'm seven.

I'm the color of cinnamon. Mom says she could eat me up.

My mom's the color of french toast, she's an artist.

Mom's teaching me how to mix colors. She says, that if I mix red, yellow, black and white paint in the

right combination I will have the right brown for a picture of me.

The right brownbut mom Brown is brown I say. That's not so, mom says there are lots of different

shades of brown.

Let's take a walk. You'll see. We go to the playground where we see my friend Sonya.

Sonya is a light yellow brown. Mom says just like creamy peanut butter. My favorite.

Isabella is chocolate brown like the cupcakes we had for her birthday

Lucy has skin that's peachy and tan.

My best friend Jojen lives close to the playground.

Jojen is the color of honey. Two streets, over we meet my cousin Kyle.

He's skin is Reddish brown like leaves in fall.

Karlis and Rosita have brought their new puppy to the park

Karlis is a light cocoa brown and

Rocitas skin looks like butterscotch.

When we pass by the pizza parlor Mom and I, see Mr. Pellegrino flipping a high pizza in the air.

He is a the colour of pizza crust, a golden-brown.

My babysitter Candy is like a beautiful jewel, bronze and amber. She looks like a princess.

After lunch we walked to mom's favorite store where Mr. Cashmere sells many different spices.

He's the color of ginger and chili powder.

Up the street is my aunt Cathy, laundromat. Aunt Cathy is 22, tan like coconuts and coffee tea.

After we walk my friends come over, we take our towels to the roof and line the Sun.

I think about everyone I saw today: Sonya, Isabella and Lucy, Jojen and Kyle

Karlis and Rosita, Mr. Pellegrino and Candy Mr. Cashmere and aunt Cathy... each one of them have a beautiful color. My friends leave and I go downstairs.

I'm happy I get all my paints yellow, red, black and white.

I think about all the wonderful colors I will make and I say their names out loud: cinnamon, chocolate and honey, coffe, toffee, butterscotch, they sound so delicious

At last my pictures are done I've painted everyone.

Look mom, I say "the colors of us."