

K-2 Down Syndrome Education Program

Adapted from Special Olympics Get Into It
We'll Paint the Octopus Red by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

Overview:

An interactive discussion and project about people's differences and similarities, Down syndrome and the Buddy Walk for Pre-K students.

Contact Dawn Durante, 2008 Buddy Walk Education Chair, at dawnd@homesc.com with questions or comments.

Estimated length: 15 minutes

Materials needed: None

Ask:

Think about a time when you learned to do something new. An example might be learning how to ride a bike, skate or play a new game.

Have children give examples of new things they have learned to do.

Ask:

What was the new thing you learned to do?

How did you learn it?

Who taught it to you?

What did you think was easy about it?

What did you think was difficult?

What did you do to get better at the difficult thing?

Explain:

All of us can learn to do things, but different people learn in different ways. Some people take longer to learn than others. Some people need more practice than others to do something well.

Because no two people in our class are exactly the same, there are many different things all of us like to do. If we were all the same, life would be boring. The differences in other people make life interesting.

Ask:

Who can give examples of some of the ways we are all the same?

Encourage answers such as we all have eyes, ears, arms and legs

Ask:

Who can give us examples of some of the ways we are all different?

Encourage answers such as hair and eye color, height, clothes

Explain:

Sometimes kids are mean to other kids who are different from them. Sometimes kids are mean to each other by saying mean things or by leaving someone out during play time. It is never OK to be mean to anyone. You should be nice to everyone all the time.

Explain:

One way we are different is that some people have Down syndrome and others do not.

Ask:

Do you know anyone with Down syndrome?

Do you know what Down syndrome is?

Explain:

Down syndrome is something that causes differences in the way a person looks and learns. Kids with Down syndrome look a little different from other kids and have to try harder to learn.

The Buddy Walk is a celebration of all people with Down syndrome. It will be here in Charleston in a few weeks and we would love for you to come. We will have lots of jump castles, face painters, games and food. We could all go together and have a great time. You will see kids with Down syndrome there doing all the same things you enjoy doing.

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and
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Project Ideas

1. Make Buddy Walk posters to hang around school.
2. Make posters about Down Syndrome to hang around school.
3. Make posters of children being kind to other children to hang around school.
4. Read books about Down Syndrome from your local library. We'll Paint the Octopus Red by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen is a good choice for children in PreK.