

It's Okay to Be Different

Objectives

- Understand that people have unique experiences, strengths, and ideas.
- Explore and incorporate people's differences to enrich learning.

Materials Needed

- I Am Different reproducible
- *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr
- Markers or colored pencils
- Pencil

Getting Started

- Print the reproducible and make copies as needed.



Activity

1. Think about one way you are unique and different—for example, you like to wear mismatched socks, you can whistle any tune, your favorite hobby is crocheting, and so on—and share it with children. Then ask them to think about one way they are unique and different and encourage volunteers to share their ideas.
2. Read aloud *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr. Afterward, ask children, *What can you learn from this book? What lesson does the author want you to understand?* Talk about all the ways the book says people can be different. Guide children to understand that the author wants them to recognize that everyone is different—and that is okay! (Circle back to your initial discussion and talk about how everyone shared something that makes them unique, which also makes them special.)
3. Give each child a copy of the reproducible. Have children think about four different things that make them unique and different—their favorite food, their favorite place to go, a special hobby or talent they have, and anything else that makes them different for the “I Am ME!” space (for example, they wear glasses, they have long hair, and so on). Encourage them to draw a picture for each category.
4. Allow children to share and talk about their completed reproducibles.

Extended Learning

Create an “I Am Different Because...” bulletin board. Provide construction paper and have children draw their favorite thing about themselves.

Name: _____

I Am Different

Food	Place
Talent or Hobby	I Am ME!