

Diverse Ability Pre-workshop Activity/Discussion

Have you ever played a game with someone new and noticed that they play the game differently than you? Have you ever noticed that some people write with their left hands? Perhaps you've heard someone pronounce a word differently than you, or even with an accent from another place. If someone in your class throws a ball with their left hand and catches with their right, are they doing it wrong or just different? Sometimes it's easier to focus on how *other* people are different than us than to consider the truth, which is that *we* are just as different from them.

(The following activity can be A) Verbally: where the teacher reads the questions aloud and the students either speak their answer or raise their hands to vote, or B) Written: where students circle one of the two answers that best fits how they do things. Decide which you think will work best for your class).

- Which hand do you hold your pen/pencil in when you write, right –or- left?
- Which hand do you throw with, right –or- left?
- Do you wear eyeglasses? Yes –or- no?
- Have you ever worn braces on your teeth? Yes –or- no?
- Which would you say you're better at, sports –or- spelling? Writing –or-singing?

Each one of us is different and we also *do* things in a different way. But sometimes people don't want to be different. Sometimes people would prefer to just blend in and be like everyone else, but that's not always easy to do. Let's explore what it must feel like to try do something in a different way than we're used to. With a pen or pencil, try writing your name below using the opposite hand that you normally use:

Was that hard? Let's try another one. With the hand you normally write with, try and write the ABC's backwards (starting with "Z") as quickly as you can:

_____ ... Give up yet? Now try and sing the ABC song to

yourself while writing the alphabet backwards: _____

No matter how well you did at these activities, I think we can all agree that they were challenging. What would it be like if doing simple tasks here in the classroom were as difficult to do as these activities? Would they take longer? Would you learn as much? What if you were the only one in the classroom that took a long time to complete tasks? Would people treat you differently? How would you feel about your self? (*discuss*)

Diverse Ability Follow-Up Activity

_____ **is AMAZING!**

Each one of us has special abilities; we do things a little different than other people. That's what makes us who we are! What do you do different than other people? What are your special abilities? What are you good at?

Draw a picture of yourself, maybe doing that thing that makes you special:

