Sense of Self

This book features illustrations of diverse people and animals as well as their various characteristics. It encourages readers to love themselves and embrace others the many different ways they are.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

Children will:

Teachers will:





- ♦ Show awareness about self
- Understand characteristics of self and others
- Acknowledge and affirm physical attributes

TEACHING TIP

Infants and toddlers are just beginning to develop a sense of themselves and an awareness that their bodies, thoughts, and actions are separate from others. They may notice and comment on how they are alike and different from others. Adults can help children appreciate their differences and others' differences by acknowledging and affirming the uniqueness of these differences. When teachers positively comment on illustrations that show characters with various physical attributes, they provide opportunities for children to be proud of themselves and to embrace others.

1. INTRODUCE

• (Look around at the children) "We are not the same. We're different from each other. And it's lovely that everyone is special and beautiful in their own way. This book is called, Lovely."

2. READ THE BOOK

- Pause occasionally to comment on the differences and features mentioned in the book.
- ♦ There are no or few words on every page. Encourage children to explore and comment on the illustrations.

Acknowledge and Affirm Physical Attributes



Read: "Fluffy. Sleek!"

Acknowledge: "Everyone has hair, but it doesn't always look the same. Look at these people. They have different hair. Let's look at our hair."

Affirm: "Our hair is all different colors. I see (Child) has brown curly hair. (Child) has short light-colored hair Every color and kind of hair is special."

Read: point to the letter on each hand "L-o-v-e-l-y."

Acknowledge: "Each hand has skin, but it doesn't always look the same. Look at these hands. They all have different colored skin. Let's look at the color of our skin."

Affirm: "Our skin is all different colors. I see (Child) has tan skin. (Child) has beige skin with lots of brown freckles. (Child) has dark brown skin. Every color of skin is special."

Read: "We are all ... Lovely."

Acknowledge: "All of these people are different in many ways and that makes them special and lovely. Let's think about what else makes us special."

Affirm: "(Child) says they're fast. (Child) has brown hair. (Child) likes to make people smile. We are all lovely and special in so many ways."

3. REVIEW

• "We are all special! It's wonderful that we're different from each other! Clap your hands for being you and all the lovely ways that you are!"

4. KEEP IT GOING

◆ The last picture in this book illustrates and notes, "We are all ... lovely." Take a group photo of the classroom and encourage children to notice ways each of them is lovely/unique. Prompt them to identify various physical attributes, capabilities, and actions. For example, "Look at (Child). They have a dimple in their cheek," or "Look at (Child). They have light brown eyes that shine when they smile."