

Network of connections



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AGE	3 – 6 years
VALUE	Diversity
MATERIALS	Ball of wool or different balls with different colours
DURATION	20 to 30 minutes
GROUP SIZE	Up to 10 children
OBJECTIVES	Recognizing differences and commonalities between each other. Strengthening a sense of belonging. Realising connectedness between each other.
METHODOLOGY	game
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STEP BY STEP IMPLEMENTATION

This exercise can be especially useful in culturally and linguistically diverse groups to build a sense of belonging and appreciation for difference/diversity. It shows children that there are always things that connect us in our diversity.

Step 1

The facilitator lets the children stand or sit in a circle. A child starts and tells something they like, for example something to eat, a toy, a hobby or something similar.

Step 2

All children who also like this thing, raise their arm and thread is thrown to them one after another. They hold on to the thread and through the ball of wool to the next child that raised its arm. The thread can be put on the floor as well or be drawn with chalk if played outdoors. Here also different colors can be used to emphasize diversity.

Step 3

Every child gets to say once what it likes

Step 4

At the end, the children look at the net, that was created by themselves and realize how much they have in common, even though everybody is different from the other.

Note: for adults there is video from the Danish TV called „All that we share“, which also advertises unity in diversity. It might inspire similar ideas of showing the connectedness in diversity among people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD8tjhVO1Tc>



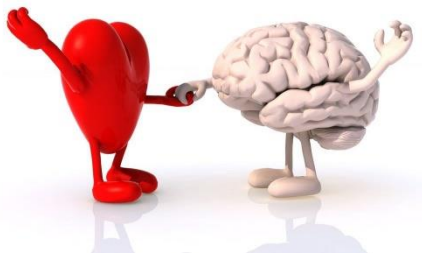
CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

OBSERVED BEHAVIOR	YES	NO	COMENTS
Children acknowledge that they are different from each other.			
Children realise that there are many connections between them.			
Children have taken active part in the game and mentioned different things they like			

If we wish to ensure everyone's peace and happiness we need to cultivate a healthy respect for the diversity of our peoples and cultures, founded on an understanding of this fundamental sameness of all human beings.

- Dalai Lama

Self-care Hints for Childcare professionals and teachers:



When you are feeling anxious or stressed, try naming what you are feeling. This helps your stress response to calm down. By saying out loud, or to yourself, the negative emotion you are feeling while you are experiencing it, you create a little distance between it and your reaction. It gives your rational thinking mind a chance to take over from the emotional part of your brain. That creates a space in which you can choose how to respond rather than.