



START WITH RESPECT Autism Awareness Mini Lesson Plans

5 MINUTE MINI LESSON

Acknowledging Similarities and Differences

The teacher or a designated student chooses an object (an accessory or certain colored shirt) and sorts the class based on “who has it and who doesn’t.” Between each student sort, the students take a turn guessing what the object is. Close the lesson talking about what makes us different is what makes us unique.

The Brainstorm

Have students list ways to be a friend to someone different from them and write their responses on chart paper. Some examples are: say hello, invite them to sit at lunch with you, ask them to play a game at recess, speak with them about something that they enjoy.

Kids Activity Booklet

Ask students to complete an activity from Autism New Jersey’s Kids Booklet. Then follow up with a discussion about autism. Use the educators’ section of the Kids Booklet for tips!

10 MINUTE MINI LESSON

Word Find

Ask students to write “Autism Awareness” and then write down all of the words that can be created using the letters in “Autism Awareness.”

Definition of a Friend

Have students cut out a large puzzle piece shape and write their definition of a friend on it. Attach the puzzle pieces to a bulletin board in the shape of an awareness ribbon.

Speaking Without Words

Explain that many children with autism are not able to speak using many words. Whisper a simple sentence to one student, such as “My hand hurts,” “I want a hamburger for lunch,” or “I am allergic to milk.” Ask that student to tell the class the sentence without using words. Afterwards, have a discussion about how difficult and frustrating that would be if you had to communicate that way all the time.

All of these lessons can be lengthened with the addition of a book about autism. Check out the Hub, www.autismnj.org/ambassador and click on “In the Schools,” for additional lesson plans.



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