



Diversity and Inclusion Workshop



Hello teachers and carers!

Goss Castle's diversity and inclusion session is for children aged 5 to 8. The purpose of this workshop is to teach children about diversity, being inclusive and valuing differences. The session has three parts and lasts around 1 hour.

Part 1 'Let's Think' activity

Who would you choose to be your friend? (10 mins)

Part 2 Storytime and discussion

Read aloud "We All Belong" (20mins)

Part 3 Art activity

We Are All Unique (30mins)

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Part 1 'Let's Think' activity

Who would you choose to be your friend?

The goal of this activity is to encourage children to understand differences and what it means to be inclusive of everyone.



What you need

8 photos of different children (ideally a mix of gender, ethnicity, disability), of a similar age to the students participating.

You can get stock images free for commercial use from **pixabay** and **pixels**

Getting started

In small groups, we ask the children to look carefully at each photo and put a sticker on the photo of the child(ren) they think they would like to make friends with.

Questions to ask students

- How do we choose our friends? What do we like about our friends?*
- What makes us the same or different from our friends?*
- Would you want this person as a friend? Why? Why not?*
- Would you play with this person?*
- Would this person choose you as a friend?*

Helpful tips

Ask each child to make a choice by themselves. They can put stickers on as many children as they want.

The concluding message

Anyone could be a good friend - whether they look the same or different to you. A good friend is someone who is kind, listens, shares, and cares about you. They make you feel happy and safe when you're together. You may have something in common with a friend too, like a favourite game that you both like to play. We should choose friends based on how they treat us and how we feel when we're with them, not on how they look, because what's inside their heart is more important than how they look on the outside. Kind and caring friends make us happier and help us when we need it.

Part 2 Storytime and discussion

“We All Belong”

What you need

Get a copy of the [We All Belong](#) book



Listen to the readalong “**We All Belong**” by Alex Goss and Nathalie Goss via Youtube <https://youtu.be/UAgi8iCs9xA?si=xqnAHPOAmWdQWcv4>

Let’s talk

After reading, it’s time for a group discussion, to engage the children in a conversation about diversity.

Some possible questions you might ask

- What does it mean to belong? What does it mean if we all belong?*
- How can people be different from one another?*
- Why do you think it's important to have friends who are different from us?*
- Can you think of a time when you included someone who was feeling left out? How did it make you and the other person feel?*
- How can we celebrate and appreciate the differences in our friends and classmates?*

The concluding message

We talked about what it means to belong and why it’s important for all of us to feel like we belong. We learned that people can be different from one another in many ways, and having friends who are different makes our world more colourful and interesting. Remember, when we include someone who feels left out, it makes both them and us feel happy. So, let’s always be kind, celebrate our differences, and remember that we all belong together, just like in the book we read. Keep being amazing friends to each other!

Part 3 Art Activity

We Are All Unique

We love display and craft! For this part of the workshop, we invite the children to express themselves, and celebrate their uniqueness.



What you need

- Colourful papers
- Scissors
- Pen and pencils
- Glue
- Large board for the display
- "We All Belong" printed words



Getting started

1. Ask the children to draw their hand on a piece of paper
2. Carefully cut out the shape of their hands
3. Ask the children to write five facts about themselves on their cut-out hand e.g.
 - *My name is...*
 - *I'm from...*
 - *I have...(siblings / pets / ability)*
 - *I am... (characteristic / feature)*
 - *I like...*
 - *My family speaks...*

Make a lovely display!

To make a display, stick all the hands around the We All Belong sign.

Helpful tips

Sometimes it's hard to read everyone's writing, so you can type the important words they say and put them on the board.

The concluding message

Fantastic job, everyone! Look at our amazing 'We All Belong' display; it's full of colourful hands that show how we're all unique and special.

Just like these hands, we're all different in some ways, but we're also the same because we're all friends who care about each other.

Let's celebrate our differences and remember that together, we create something beautiful and strong. Keep being really kind and inclusive, because that's what makes our class so wonderful!

Resources

We

ALL

belong