

Identifying similarities and differences is the process of comparing information, sorting concepts into categories, and making connections to existing knowledge. Supporting each young child's full and equitable participation requires early childhood professionals to build the capacity for children to recognize and talk about differences in ways that are honest and accurate, but also thoughtful and kind. This takes intentionality on the part of professionals, and daily practice and modeling by children and adults. Here are some resources for supporting those capabilities.

Exploring Similarities <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/autism/?activity=exploring-similarities>

This brief video and activity from Sesame Street provides a thoughtful introduction to helping young children process the idea that although everyone is different, we all share important feelings. At this website, the video shows what some children with autism like to do, then in text below the video it provides prompts for discussing similarities and differences.

We Are Different, We Are the Same <http://bkc-od-media.vhost.psu.edu/documents/Activities1506.pdf>

This document offers five different activities that can be used to explore similarities and differences in a fun, thoughtful, and informative way. Children's books that could also be used to explore these topics are listed (e.g., *The Sneeches* by Dr. Seuss), along with additional resources for educators.

Starting Small: Teaching Tolerance in Preschool and the Early Grades

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/film-kits/starting-small> (kit)

http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/kits/Teachers_Study_Guide.pdf (downloadable Teacher's Guide)

The vision of community that the early childhood classroom provides can color children's expectations about equity, cooperation and citizenship for a lifetime. This free training kit profiles seven classrooms in which teachers are helping children practice fairness, respect, and tolerance. The kit includes a 58-minute DVD and a Teacher's Guide with a 114-page set of additional information about each classroom as well as resources, activities, and reflections.

Q&A: Noticing Differences <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/4087-q-a-noticing-differences>

This column shares ideas about how families and educators can explain differences in ways that promote understanding.

Talking to Children About Differences and Similarities

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/talking-children-about-differences-similarities>

Children are remarkably good at observing differences in the world. This is an important developmental learning strategy. Adults can support children as they make sense of differences by talking to them about what they observe. Read this evidence-based document for a review of the research and applications for home and classroom. The document is also available in Spanish at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/es/publicacion/hablar-con-los-ninos-acerca-de-las-diferencias-y-similitudes>

A GUMDROP About How Children Differences <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1318677894834176>

Sometimes differences that may be obvious to adults are not obvious to children. This delightful video reminds us of this fact in a light-hearted way.

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features readily available, and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3 and their families. Resources in English and Spanish are highlighted. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. Past issues are archived at <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/natural-resources-monthly-newsletter> To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu