

New York State  
**BOOK NOOKS**



# It's Okay To Be Different

This colorful, visually engaging book highlights many ways that we are all different and serves as reminder that they are all okay! We are reminded that no one is the same and we should all be proud to be ourselves.

**Title:** It's Okay To Be Different

**Author:** Todd Parr

**Illustrator:** Todd Parr

**Publisher:** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

**Date published:** 2009

<b>Pyramid Model Skill or concept(s)</b>	Recognize commonalities and differences, problem solving
<b>Goal/Objective:</b>	Children will learn problem solving strategies.  Children will learn about how they are like their peers and how they are different while finding ways to celebrate those differences.  Children will review classroom expectations and rules.
<b>Emotional Vocabulary:</b>	Okay, embarrassed, proud, special, mad, important

**Small Group: (Practice It!)**

<b>Name of Activity:</b>	It's Okay to Need Some Help!
<b>Supplies needed:</b>	Solutions Kit cards
<b>Ideas of what to say or do.</b>	After reading the book, go back to the page that shares "It's okay to need some help". You can discuss with the students about the illustration and how the girl pictured needed the help of the support dog, possibly because she is visually impaired. Ask the children if they ever had a time when they needed help. Have the students work in small groups and share out that time with their group. If the "ask for help" and "get a teacher" solution cards haven't been included in your kit yet, this would be a great time to add them. If they are a part of your kit, have students share a time they used the card in the classroom. Students can then role play different examples of how they can use the cards to help with a problem.

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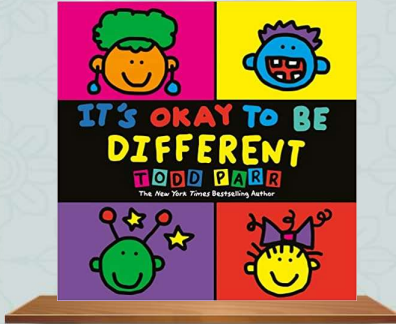
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<b>What Pyramid Model skill or concept is covered?</b>	Problem solving
<b>Small Group: (Practice It!)</b>	
<b>Name of Activity:</b>	Making New Friends
<b>Supplies needed:</b>	Paper, crayons, markers, colored pencils, bell, timer
<b>Ideas of what to say or do.</b>	Share with the class that they are going to work on an art activity that will have them working with different friends in the classroom. The bell will ring, and each child will find someone in the class they have something in common with (same hair, eyes, or skin color, same likes or dislikes, etc.) and then they will draw together while talking with their partner, set a timer for 5 minutes. When the timer rings, the children will now find someone that is different than them in some aspect! Then have them spend 5 minutes with that friend; coloring and talking together. You may want to use a "5 Minutes Glove" to provide supports for the transitions and you can continue to switch partners, back to those that are similar and to those that are different. After the activity, the children can come together and share out the new things they learned about each other!
<b>What Pyramid Model skill or concept is covered?</b>	Transitioning, friendship skills

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**Whole Group: (Review It!)**

<b>Name of Activity:</b>	It's Okay!
<b>Supplies needed:</b>	Chart paper, Program Wide Expectations, Classroom Rules, camera, printer, laminator, book binder
<b>Ideas of what to say or do.</b>	This book examples about how it's okay to be different and what is okay to do. This is a great time to review with students your classroom expectations and brainstorm rules and ideas that demonstrate and support those expectations. For example, if one of your program or classroom expectations is to be respectful; ask children what does being respectful look like? As they explain the different situations, such as using listening ears, have some students model for a picture of what that looks like. Print these visual examples and laminate the pages to create a classroom book of all the things that are OKAY to do in the classroom!
<b>What Pyramid Model skill or concept is covered?</b>	Expectations and rules, positive behaviors

