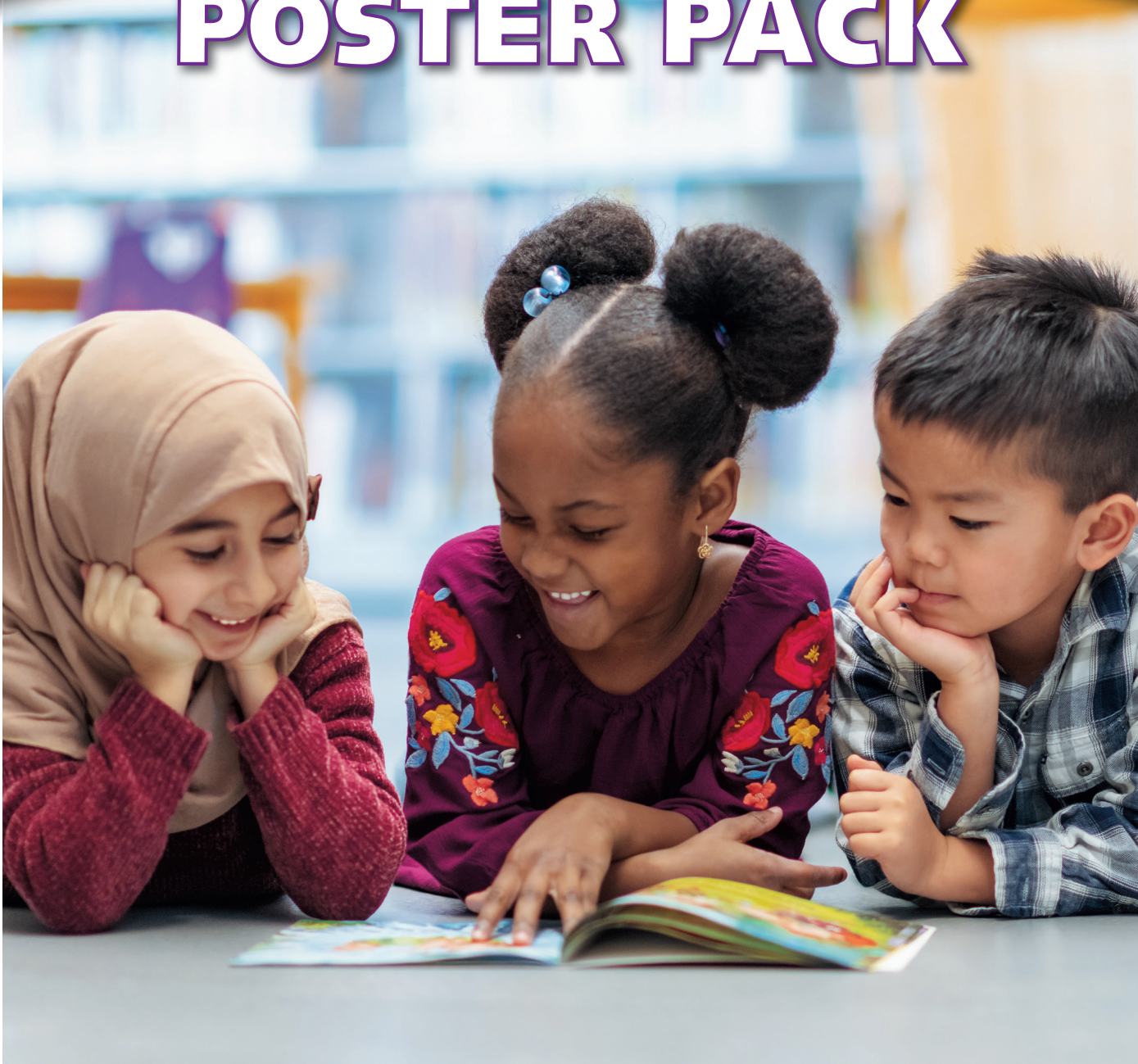


# Celebrating Diversity

## POSTER PACK



**Start important conversations about diversity and inclusion at a level that's just right for young children!**

- Durable, ready-to-hang photographic posters
- Teacher's guide (on back) with thematic activity ideas

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**20**  
**11" x 16"**  
**posters**





Embracing & Celebrating Diversity

These 20 posters provide a great starting point for conversations and activities exploring diversity, inclusion, and understanding. Perfect for bulletin boards and classroom displays, each photographic poster features a variety of children in different but familiar scenarios. As you discuss the posters, remind children that we have many differences to celebrate. Sometimes we enjoy doing the same things, and sometimes we enjoy doing different things.

Why Talk About Diversity & Inclusion?

At preschool age, children begin to recognize how they are the same as and different from their peers and others in the world. It is important to begin these conversations early to help children develop a deeper understanding of diversity and avoid implicit biases that can lead to false assumptions and the unequal treatment of others.

For adults, the key is to talk openly and simply about the fact that—regardless of appearance, ability, or cultural background—our differences are something to celebrate and cherish. After all, they make us who we are!

The Goal of the Poster Pack

- Help guide early conversations around diversity and inclusion
- Help create a platform for celebrating diversity in all its forms and expressions
- Help promote interest, understanding, and respect for others regardless of difference
- Help build social-emotional skills that continue to develop as children grow
- Help children develop dignity and esteem for themselves just as they are
- Help build and sustain a community of caring and kindness within your school and classroom

Using the Posters

During group time, introduce one or two posters before displaying them in the classroom. Select a poster that is easy for children to relate to from their own experience—such as the image of circle time or children eating lunch. To prompt discussion, ask questions such as:

1. What are the children doing in the picture?
2. How can you tell the children are friends? How can you tell they are happy (or having a good time)?
3. Is there anything shown in the picture that you enjoy doing? Is there anything shown that you don't enjoy doing?

Encourage students to identify similarities and differences between themselves and the children in the posters. What visible features are the same or different? Some answers might refer to size, height, skin tone, eye color, hair color, hairstyle, or use of adaptive equipment like eyeglasses, leg braces, or wheelchairs. What about clothing? Do they wear similar clothes to the children in the posters? Do they wear different clothes than the children in the posters? Do they recognize any specific foods, activities, or celebrations? Are these familiar or unfamiliar?

Discussing differences among children may lead to questions that highlight bias regarding an observed difference. These are excellent opportunities to point out that our differences demonstrate that others are different from you and you are different from them! You can also emphasize that our differences make us unique and provide opportunities to learn new things, try new foods, and participate in new celebrations. Taken together, all of these can encourage children to think and act in a more unbiased way.

Activity Ideas

To further explore diversity in a preschool setting, try these simple activities. Each one provides easy opportunities for children to explore their own identity and those of others.

Here We Are! Class Book

- Here's a great way to learn how young children see themselves!
- First, provide them with craft paper, colored pencils, and crayons that reflect a wide range of skin tones, hair colors, and eye colors. (In addition to standard colored markers or crayons, consider *People Colors® Craft Paper*, *People Colors® Jumbo Colored Pencils*, and *People Colors® Crayon Packs*.)
  - Next, invite children to draw pictures of themselves using colors that accurately reflect their features. If they are able, encourage children to write their name next to their self-portrait (or you can do this for them).
  - Then, combine the self-portraits into a class book and display it in the classroom.
  - Provide an opportunity for each child to share his or her self-portrait with the class. As they do so, encourage them to describe their different features—hair and hair color, eye color, skin tone, glasses, clothes, and expression!

Buddy Match Puzzle

- Want to help children get better acquainted? Using a match-up puzzle is a simple way to get kids together for an entire day or week.
- Begin by cutting out pictures from magazines or downloading fun images from the Internet. Cut each picture in half and mix them up in a pile.

- One at a time, have children select a picture “puzzle piece” from the pile. Then invite children to find the person with the matching piece!
- Pair the children up for the rest of the day or week. To help them get to know one another, start by having each pair of children ask each other a few simple questions, such as:
  - ✓ What is your name?
  - ✓ Whom do you live with?
  - ✓ What is your favorite thing to do with your family?
  - ✓ What is your favorite color?
  - ✓ What is your favorite sport?
  - ✓ What is your favorite animal?
  - ✓ What is your favorite game?
  - ✓ What is your favorite place to visit?

While students are getting acquainted with their new buddies, pick a question from above and invite children to respond by drawing a picture of their answers!

I Am Me! Celebration Book

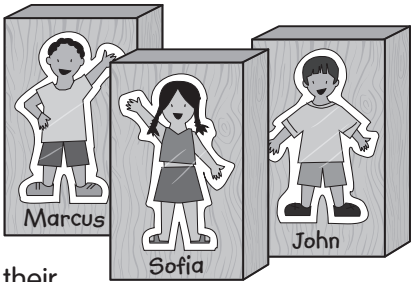
- To promote self-acceptance and celebrate their own uniqueness, have children create their own books—all about them. When they're done, students can share their books with classmates!
- First, provide children with construction paper, collage materials, and drawing utensils as described in the *Here We Are! Class Book* activity.
  - Next, have them draw and decorate a single page for each topic below:
    - ✓ Self-portrait
    - ✓ One hand
    - ✓ Family or caregivers
    - ✓ Pets
    - ✓ Holidays you celebrate
    - ✓ Things that make you and your family unique
    - ✓ Special meals
    - ✓ Your home
  - If convenient, use a smartphone to take pictures of each child's face or hand. These images can be used as covers for the books—providing a good starting point for discussions about how we are all the same, all different, and all beautiful!



To ensure that students have an opportunity to share their books, invite one to three children to share each day until everyone has had a turn.

Friendship Blocks

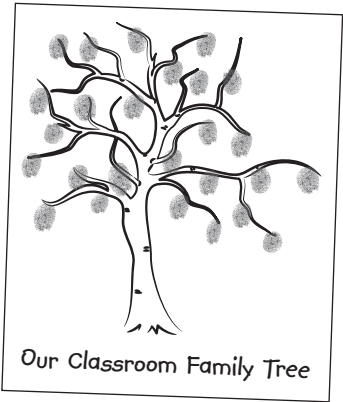
- Here is another great way to help children frame our similarities and differences with respect and appreciation!
- Using the camera on a mobile device, photograph each child in the class (either standing or just head and shoulders).
  - Print and cut out each child's image, write their names on the images, laminate them, then attach each one to the flat side of a standard hardwood block using double-sided tape.
  - Activity #1: Place children in pairs, giving each “their” photographic block, plus additional blocks and builders. Invite the children to “pretend” to be themselves as they play, encouraging them to practice kindness and respect for one another. To support cooperative play, model this behavior prior to pairing the children.
  - Activity #2: Give small groups of two or three children a matching number of friendship blocks representing other classmates. Make sure to provide them with additional blocks and builders. Then encourage them to build a play area for the classmates shown on the friendship blocks. (Children may choose to build a fort, an obstacle course, a playground, etc.) Then have the children give the friendship blocks to the classmates they represent and invite those children to play in the new play area!



Store the friendship blocks in your block play area. Incorporate them in block play activities throughout the year to help children get to know one another and to support cooperative and community play!

Classroom Family Tree

- To help students make connections with others and learn to see the classroom as another type of “family” or “team,” make a classroom family tree!
- On a sheet of white construction paper, draw a tree with branches but no leaves. Below the tree, write “Our Classroom Family Tree.”
  - Show children the picture of the tree and encourage them to identify it. Then ask them what is missing from the tree.
  - Next, tell children that this is their classroom family tree, and everyone is going to be a part of it.
  - Using a stamp pad, prompt each child to press his or her finger into the pad and then press that finger on the tree. Invite students to lightly color over and around their own fingerprint using a colored pencil or crayon that closely matches their skin tone (see the *Here We Are! Class Book* activity for materials suggestions).
  - Next, label each child's fingerprint with his or her name in small print. Make sure all the adults in the classroom include their fingerprints, too.
  - Once the tree is complete, display it prominently in the classroom!



This craft is also a great at-home activity. Invite children to make an “Our Family Tree” using fingerprints from their family members or caregivers. Ask a parent or caregiver to label each fingerprint so everyone knows whose fingerprint is whose. Families can frame their trees and hang them in the home!