

Skin Color activity:
This can be done as a small group or a larger classroom size group
Also great for Brownie Try-it Caring and Sharing (#4 Differences are OK)
with special thanks to Deb Buckingham

Part 1

Collect some paint chips from a paint store in various shades of browns, tans, and off-whites. (Try to get 2" square chips if you can, it will make Part 2 and 3 work better.) The idea is to get as many shades as there may be of skin tones. Make sure you get extras so there is lots of choice for all the children.

Get a copy of "I Don't Have Your Eyes" by Carrie Kitze, available at <http://www.emkpress.com>, Amazon, Celebrate the Child, ChinaSprout, Tapestry Books, etc. Print out the child outline on page two on cardstock for as many children as you have participating in the activity.

You will need scissors, crayons or markers to decorate the child outline, glue stick. Also, a sheet of black and a sheet of white construction paper.

Part 2

Read the book to the class. Talk about outside looks and inside feelings. We have made a list of feelings on the blackboard and talk about how everyone has them regardless of what they look like.

Next, put out a sheet of white construction paper and a sheet of black construction paper. Ask the children: Are you black or are you white? Most children will respond one way or the other.

Now give the children the paint chips. Children compare the paint chips with the colors of their own skin in order to find their colors. The neat thing with paint chips is that they have such cool names and the children get to say things like "My skin is vanilla cream but yours is applewood".

Now compare the paint chips with the black and white construction paper. Talk about the fact that many people describe human beings in terms of being black or white or yellow or brown or red but it appears from looking at the paint chips that all kinds of skin are shades of brown. Some of them are very light brown and some are very dark.

Part 3

Cut the paint chip the child has selected into a circle and place on the face of the child outline. Have the child decorate the outline to look like them.

Some teachers like to hang these up as the hands go together and look like they are holding hands.



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