Lesson 8: Accepting Differences

Today's Brain Builder is similar to the Lesson assistance. A particular student needs more specialized assistance. Alert the school counselor or psychologist if a victim of this form of bullying. Take care to discuss the topic of teasing may evoke understanding that it is wrong. Having empathy helps you understand things from someone else's perspective. This helps you accept and appreciate others' differences. Accepting people's differences is respectful.

Why This Lesson Matters
Practice in finding things they have in common and accept how others are the same as or different. Having empathy and showing respect help you get along with others.

Teaching Notes
Discussing the topic of teasing may evoke strong feelings in students who have been victims of this form of bullying. Take care to acknowledge students' feelings as they arise. Alert the school counselor or psychologist if a particular student needs more specialized assistance.

Today's Brain Builder is similar to the Lesson Home Link activity.

Warm-Up
Introduction and Review
Have students sit. Show Lesson Card 7. Use the Wrap-Up to review. Today you'll learn about accepting people's differences.

Brain Builder: Common Ground
Have students stand, facing their partners. Let's play Common Ground. You and your partner will learn ways you're alike—or similar—and ways you're different. The space between you and your partner is your "common ground." When you jump to it, it means you've found something in common. Practice the steps slowly. Remind students to use their Skills for Learning. Cue skill use with the Skills for Learning cards. Let's play!

Story and Discussion
Have students sit down. Let's learn about two students who find something they have in common and learn to accept their differences. Show the photo. Here are Yasaman and Olivia. Yasaman recently joined Olivia's third-grade class.

1. Look at the photo and think about ways that Olivia and Yasaman appear different. (Clothing, ethnicity.) Yasaman comes from Iran. She wears different clothing from Olivia. English is not her first language. Sometimes Olivia laughs when other students tease Yasaman for being different.
2. Why would some of the students laugh at Yasaman? (She's different. They don't understand how she acts. They don't consider how she feels.)
3. How do you think Yasaman feels when students tease and laugh at her? (Sad, hurt, embarrassed.) Teasing or laughing at someone because he or she is different is not respectful.
4. Look at the photo again and think about ways the girls are similar. (Both are girls. Both are third-graders. Both are doing art.)

Questions

Play a few rounds. Increase the challenge as desired (see Following Through Card 8). Raise your hand if you and your partner followed several ways you're alike. Comment on the number of hands up. You found a lot of common ground! Think about the ways you are similar and different. Give think-time. You'll need to remember them for today's skill practice.

Material for Learning cards. Cue skill use with the Skills for Learning cards.

Wrap-Up
Today you learned about noticing similarities and accepting people's differences. Accepting differences shows respect. What can help you understand another person's perspective? (Empathy.) Having empathy and showing respect help you get along with others.

Playing the song.

Skill Practice
Today's activity will help you get to know your partner better. Knowing people better helps you accept and appreciate their differences.

Think about the ways you learned you and your partner were similar and different during today's Brain Builder. Think about something you'd like to learn from your partner, like how Olivia wanted to learn how to make designs from Yasaman.

Have students sit with their Second Step partners. Distribute one copy of the Lesson 8 Handout plus colored pencils to each student. Read the directions out loud. Give students about ten minutes to complete the handout. When students are finished, have the class discuss their thoughts and feelings about the activity.

Show a thumbs-up if you learned something new about your partner. Comment on the number of thumbs up. The more you know someone, the more you can appreciate that person as an individual.

Go online to www.secondstep.org for lesson resources and videos.