

School-to-Home Connection Newsletter

Hello, Parents and Guardians!

Can you imagine what our world would be like if everyone was appreciative and understanding of different opinions, a world where thinking differently was celebrated rather than questioned? Well, we here at Fly Five are hoping to encourage your children to do just that. One of our goals in creating this curriculum is to teach future generations the importance of seeing the world, as well as each other, through a more empathetic and caring lens.

This week, your child is learning about the competency **Empathy** and how to respect and value diversity in others. Throughout this School-to-Home Connection activity package, your child will discuss and discover many different ways to recognize and acknowledge diverse points of view within the classroom, school, and home communities.

Here are some ways that you can practice this important skill with your child:

- **Dinner Discussion:** Points of View
- **Nighttime Discussion:** Acknowledging Our Differences
- **Art Activity:** Back-to-Back Drawing
- **Community Connection:** Switch the Narrative!
- **SEL Saturday:** Saturday: Art

As you support your child with the development of this skill, lead by example. Recognize and celebrate the differences around you. Acknowledge diverse points of view with appreciation. The more you act in this way, the more your child will too!

Sincerely,

The Fly Five Team



School-to-Home Connection: Activity Sheet

Grade 2

EMPATHY



- **Theme:** Respects and Values Diversity in Others
- **Objective:** The student will be able to recognize and acknowledge diverse points of view.

DINNER DISCUSSION - *Points of View*



Guided Questions:

Explain to your child that they will need to know how to recognize and acknowledge diverse points of view. Ask questions such as:

- What would the world be like if everyone had the same opinions and perspectives?
- Where do your points of view, or opinions, come from? How do your experiences shape the way you think?
- Can you still be friends with someone if you share different points of view?
- Share an example of a time when you were able to recognize and acknowledge that a friend had a different belief than you.

TIPS...

1. Have a developmentally appropriate conversation with your child about diversity. One suggestion for helping your second grader become more empathetic in recognizing and acknowledging diverse points of view is to teach them the power of listening to other peoples' stories. Explain that everyone has a story to tell. Who are they? Where did they come from? What are the people and places of their story that make them special and unique? What traditions are special to their family? The more open and eager your child is to hearing the story of someone else, the more likely it is that they will become increasingly aware that despite their differences, there is great power in connecting through the similarities of their stories.
2. To expand on the first tip, help your child brainstorm important parts of their story; feel free to start by sharing pieces of your own.
3. Share examples from your own life of the ways you recognize and acknowledge diverse viewpoints. Do your friends share your political views and interests? If they do not, do you still value and respect their beliefs?



NIGHTTIME REFLECTIONS - *Acknowledging Our Differences*



Explain to your child that we are all unique. Tell your child that our differences in opinions and perspectives are what makes us unique. Ask your child to think of kind ways that friends can share their thoughts about each other's differences. Explain that opinions are often based on what people assume but do not know for sure. Ask your child to brainstorm ways in which differences can unite people instead of dividing them.

ART ACTIVITY - *Back-to-Back Drawing*



Prep & Materials:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored pencils
- Pencils
- Slips of paper

Create a back-to-back drawing with your child. Use this week's art activity as an opportunity to explore the ways that you can view or imagine the same thing very differently.

Help your child gather the materials needed for the activity. You will each need a piece of paper, coloring utensils, and a hard surface to draw on. Before beginning, brainstorm a variety of scenes to draw with your child. Write them on slips of paper (for example, an apple orchard on a fall day; an alien house in space; etc.). Once you have written about 4 ideas, crumple the slips of papers and put them aside. Sit back-to-back with your child, unable to see what the other will be drawing. One of you will pick a slip of paper, read it aloud, and then both of you will draw the same scene. As you draw, continue to sit back-to-back. When you have both finished, turn around, and share your drawings.

As you admire both works of art, reflect on the experience together. Are your images alike or are they different? How is it possible to visualize and represent the same scene in different ways? How can you and your child apply the lesson you learned from this activity into your own lives and your experiences with others?



COMMUNITY CONNECTION - *Switch the Narrative!*



Prep & Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Markers
- Colored pencils

1

Does your child have a favorite picture book? Or perhaps they have a favorite character in a story? Encourage your child to use this week's activity as an opportunity to rewrite this story from the perspective of a different character. For example, what if Rapunzel was rewritten from the perspective of her hair? Or Humpty Dumpty from the perspective of the wall? The possibilities are endless!

2

Before they start writing, help your child brainstorm and plan the story. What ideas do they have? How would a different perspective affect the outcome of the story itself? Once they are ready, allow them to get writing. Upon completion of this activity, reflect on the experience with your child. What did they learn about various points of view?

SEL SATURDAY - *Art*



This isn't your average SEL Saturday; spend this S-art-urday at your local art museum. The most beautiful thing about art is that its interpretation is free to anyone who views it. Gather your family together and head to your local art museum. Many museums offer free admission. If there are no museums in your area, feel free to check out a national art museum's website, as many post images of their exhibits.

Before your visit, have a conversation with your second grader that everyone is entitled to their own opinion when viewing art. What does this have to do with empathy? They can empathize with someone even if they have a different viewpoint or perspective. Just because they might view a piece of art as a cloud while their sibling views it as a flower, one viewpoint is not right or the other wrong; this just means they view the same art in a different way, and that is okay.

With your child, reflect on your visit to the museum by thinking about how art and empathy connect. Can they feel kindness toward someone who sees something in a different way? Do they lose their appreciation for something because someone else sees it differently? How does someone else's viewpoint impact their own? Are they more open to seeing things differently?

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