

Getting to know you Classroom Activity Ideas



Lower primary

Jigsaw challenge

Create a puzzle from a foam board or thick cardboard. Write the name of each child in your class on the puzzle, assigning one puzzle piece to each child. Ask the children to find the puzzle piece with their name on and draw something on it that is important to them.

Now ask the children to find the person whose puzzle piece connects to theirs. When they have found it encourage them to sit down with the person and share information about themselves.

Once all children have connected, ask the children to share what they put on their puzzle piece.

You might talk about how a puzzle is incomplete if one piece of the puzzle is missing, how all the children fit together as a team like pieces of a puzzle, and how you will be the tape that holds the pieces together all year long. You can use the puzzle as a classroom display.

Scavenger Hunt

Create a list of scavenger hunt questions that relate to the classroom environment. Those questions might include:

- How many garbage cans are in the room?
- How many water dispensers are there?
- How do you spell my last name?
- How many number 5's can you spot in the room?

The questions should challenge children to become more aware of their classroom environment while at the same time giving the teacher the opportunity to observe which children can read questions with no problem, who writes without assistance, who takes charge and gets to work, who holds back and waits for help, and more.

If I were an animal

Start by giving your own example, using the phrase:

“My name is _____, and if I were an animal I'd be a _____ because....”.

Give the children two minutes to think and then encourage them one by one to have a go.

This activity will enable you to learn their name, observe whether they can follow directions and their creativity. It will also enable children to learn each others names and something about their peers.

Extension; Ask children to draw their animal and leave a space at the bottom to write; “My name is _____, and if I were an animal I'd be a _____ because....”. Depending on ability you might want to write this on the paper leaving gaps or write on paper/ a board for the children to copy.

We are all unique!

Each day throughout the school year, introduce a Word of the Day. A good word for the first day is *unique*. Write the word on the board and ask chlds to read the word. Give clues and use the word in several statements making the last "Each of us is unique."

Encourage the children to talk about ways in which we're each unique. Starting yourself, I am the only person with long hair! Mia is the only one who comes on the school bus. Sam is the only one of us who has a pet cat. And so it goes.

Next step: Using a roll of paper, attach a piece around 10 feet long to the classroom board or a wall. Encourage each child to draw his/ her name on the paper and decorate it to make it look UNIQUE.

Start out by writing your name e.g. "Mrs Hill" in big letters and add add whatever decoration you wish to it.

Once complete, it makes a great classroom bulletin board under the cut out-letter headline We Are All Unique! This activity will also reveal more of the children's personalities.

Further information

Realize has shared just a few activities that can be used to encourage children to get to know each other and for teacher to get to know their class. There are many, many more.



To access further information and resources on disabilities, strategies to support children and young people and resources, please visit our online information and resources platform Realize More:

www.realizebelize.org

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