

Workplace Readiness Skill

Interpersonal Skills

Activity Sheet

Skill 9

Respect for Diversity

In light of recent events, diversity may be a challenging topic to address. Yet, being able to work cooperatively with individuals from different backgrounds, beliefs, abilities, and experiences is key to success in any work setting.

Description of Respect for Diversity

Respecting diversity means accepting that there are differences among people related to age, gender, culture, race, values, social status, and ability. It also means being able to work well with people who look, act, or think differently.

Examples of respect for diversity:

- Watching television shows or reading books with characters who are of a different race or culture.
- Acknowledging a coworker's celebration of a holiday that you do not celebrate.

Menu of Activities

These activities are designed to help families discuss and practice working respectfully with everyone. Choose one or more activities to complete with your child.

Activity 1: Teens Talk About Diversity

1. Watch the YouTube video: [Teens Talk About Diversity](https://youtu.be/LFNuRJm4LMs) (youtu.be/LFNuRJm4LMs) with your child.
2. Discuss what diversity means to them in their everyday lives.
3. Ask your child to identify a person they know who is of a different race, culture, gender, religion, or has a disability and how they know them. Share your own experiences working with diverse groups.
4. Review the [R-E-S-P-E-C-T handout](https://bit.ly/RESPECT_handout) (bit.ly/RESPECT_handout) and what each statement means when working with people from diverse groups.
5. Remind your child that while each person in your family has differences, each bring strengths to the family to accomplish tasks in the home (meal prep, housekeeping, etc.) and the same is true when working with people from diverse backgrounds on the job.

Activity 2: My Neighborhood

1. Talk to your child about what diversity means. Ask or share what makes them unique (strengths, talents, skills).
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2. Take a walk, bike ride, or drive around your neighborhood. Or, go somewhere in the community, like a restaurant.
3. Ask your child if they saw:
 - A person from a different race.
 - A person from a different gender.
 - A person who is a senior citizen.
 - A person with a disability.
 - A person from a different country or culture.
 - A person who speaks a different language.
 - A house of worship where people practice a different religion.
4. Talk about how diversity is all around us. Talk to your child about what they have in common with the people observed and what may be different.
5. Review the [R-E-S-P-E-C-T handout](https://bit.ly/RESPECT_handout) (bit.ly/RESPECT_handout) with your child. Share your experiences with working with people from diverse backgrounds and the importance of showing respect.

Activity 3: **What is Special About Me and You?**

1. Have a discussion with your child about what makes them special. Have your child and family members think about what makes them special in terms of their strengths, personality traits, appearance, clothing, religion, hobbies, etc. Write or draw each special thing about your child.
2. Have your child think about a person who seems different from themselves. Discuss what makes that person special. Write or draw out all of the special things about that person.
3. Find the commonalities and circle what is similar. This can help us see that even those who seem different from us can share similarities with us.
4. Find some of the differences and circle them. This can help us see that even where we are different we are special. Diversity is good. The world needs people who have all different types of special skills and strengths.

Reflection

Review the questions with your child and respond together after completing the activities.

- Did this information help your family better understand respect for diversity?
- What was easy or hard about learning and practicing this skill?
- Why is this skill important to use at home and at work?
- How do we continue to practice this skill in the home and in the community?
- What additional information or resources do I need to continue to practice this skill with my child?