

Where's my banana?

Age:	9- 10 years old
Time:	10 minutes
Location:	Indoors/Outdoors
Group Size:	6- 15
Activity Level:	Calm
Materials:	1 banana per person, a large bowl for the bananas
Principal Value:	Respect for diversity
Other Values:	Acceptance, respect



Reference

Prepare for this activity by consulting the **User's Guide** for instructions, *How to use this toolkit* (p. 8), and descriptions of *respect for diversity*, *acceptance* (p. 15) and *respect* (p. 14). You will also find useful information in the **User's Guide** on culture, explained by *The Iceberg Model* (pp. 16 and 17) and, on *prejudices and stereotypes* (p. 18).

Purpose of the game

To sensitize children to respect diversity and promote acceptance. To help the children to understand that people, like bananas, can be very similar on the inside despite their visible differences outside. This activity aims to remind children that it is often erroneous to judge a person by his appearance.

This game can be played during snack time or as an introduction to the themes of *respect for diversity* or *acceptance*.

Object of the game

To make children aware of acceptance.

To find our own banana.

How to play

Note: Ask children to wash their hands before this activity.

1. Ask all the children to bring a banana or provide bananas for each of the children.
2. Ask the children to "Get to know their banana". Ask them not to peel it or eat it. They must closely examine their banana and notice all its characteristics (smell it, touch it, observe it).
3. After a few minutes, put all the bananas in a large bowl. Then ask the children to find their banana. Most will recognize their banana.

4. Ask the children to explain how they were able to recognize their banana. For example: my banana was big, my banana had a mark on the side, my banana was bruised, etc.
5. Discuss with the children the fact that people also are of different sizes, shapes, skin colour etc.
6. Ask the children to peel their banana before they put it back in the bowl.
7. Ask them once again to find their banana. This time, it will be more difficult and someone may say: "But the bananas are all the same!"

Reflexion

Ask the children if they enjoyed this game.

Ask the children what they have learned playing this game.

Draw the children's attention to the fact that people may look very different, act differently, or have different tastes and interests, but they still deserve respect. We should not judge people based on differences like the colour of their skin, their hair or the shape of their nose.

Draw the children's attention to the fact people are different, but equal.

Complementary games which promote respect for diversity

See Activities 13, 14, 15, 17

Reference: Adapted from: The Woodcraft Folk,
<http://www.globalvillage2006.org/>, consulted on February 6, 2006.



You can download other games from the following website:

<http://www.equitas.org/toolkit/>