

Colour portraits

Age:	11-12 years old
Time:	20 minutes or more
Location:	Indoors (in an art studio, if possible)
Group Size:	5-20
Activity Level:	Calm
Materials:	Paper, paint and paintbrushes
Principal Value:	Acceptance
Other Values:	Respect for diversity, respect



Reference

Prepare for this activity by consulting the **User's Guide** for instructions, *How to use this toolkit* (p. 8), and descriptions of *acceptance*, *respect for diversity* (p. 15) and *respect* (p. 14).

Purpose of the game

To help children respect each other's differences. Racism is often justified by the colour of a person's skin. The aim of this activity is to help children realize that we all have skin of a different colour, making each of us unique. This activity aims to build an understanding of diversity in relation to equality. We are all different but equal.

Object of the game

To reproduce the colour of one's skin and hair.

How to play

1. Ask the children to mix paint colours in order to reproduce the colour of their skin and hair.
2. When they are finished, ask the children to name the colours that they have mixed. Here are some suggestions: rose, coral, coffee, salmon, peach, olive, eggshell, milk, apricot, cream, honey, copper and biscuit.
3. Ask the children to paint a self-portrait with the colours they have mixed. You can distribute papers with a circle (a face) already drawn on them and ask the children to paint their face and hair with the colours they have mixed.
4. Write the children's names on the top of their paintings. If you wish, hang them around the room. You can also use the colours that the children have mixed to paint a rainbow.

Reflection

Call their attention to the fact that every one has their own unique colour and no one is really “black” or “white”.

Ask the children:

- If we all have different-coloured skin, why do you think that there are persons that are discriminated against and victims of racism because of the colour of their skin?
- What can you do to prevent racism in your school, at the day camp, in your neighbourhood?

There is nothing wrong with noticing someone’s skin colour, because every one has their own special skin colour. Colour is a good thing because it makes life interesting and beautiful to look at. Can you imagine what the world would be like if everyone looked the same?

Complementary games which promote acceptance

See Activities 39, 40

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/>