

Teaching Guidelines to Support Tayra's Not Talking

Created by author and early childhood educator, Lana Button

Lana would like to suggest the following activities, based on her picture book *Tayra's Not Talking?* (Kids Can Press) that are intended to foster empathy, kindness, inclusion and positive interaction in your classroom.

Inclusion and Acceptance

Fill in a body outline with pictures and words describing what you like

Friends are invited to fill in their body outline with things they love. Friends can share their 'likes' with their class. This is a great way to celebrate everyone's differences. It is also a great way to show how we are also alike in so many ways.



Communication

Encourage your students to think of lots of ways to communicate feelings.

How would you communicate I'M HAPPY/ I'M SAD /I'M FRUSTRATED! /I'M EXCITED!

How can I say it?

How can I draw it?

How can I show it?

How can I dance it?

Hello Song!

Singing a Hello song with a waving motion increases the communication.

Hello 'child's name, Hello 'child's name', Hello 'child's name. How are you today?

-Introduce this song in different languages ie:

**In Cree:*

Tansi 'child's name, Tansi 'child's name', Tansi 'child's name. atamiskatowin

**In French:*

Bonjour 'child's name', Bonjour 'child's name' Bonjour 'child's name. Comment ca va?

(Include different languages, especially languages that reflect the culture of your classroom)

Empathy Exercise: Let's Brainstorm, "What To Say!"

If we see someone leaving a person out, we might say _____. (Ie: "That's not nice." "Let them have a turn." "Let's make room."etc.)

If you hear someone saying mean comments about a person, we might say _____. ("You need to stop that." or "We don't treat each other like that in this class.")

If you see someone push someone or hit them you might _____. (Ie: Tell them to stop. Tell an adult.)

If you realize you've said or done something that has made someone feel 'sad feelings' you might say _____. (Ie: I'm sorry I did that. I made a mistake. I won't do that again.)

Let's Make an *inclusion Pledge Poster*

With pictures, words and phrases, the class is encouraged to create a mural that pledges to include and respect all of their friends.

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