

Title of Lesson: Respecting Families Nurtures Everyone!

Age Level: 4-8

Grade Level: PreK – 3rd

Overview: Students will learn about respect, the importance of listening, and will share personal stories and hear about different types of families. These all help young people build the capacity to respect one another for similarities as well as for their differences.

Time: 60 minutes (total) broken into blocks of three timed activities

Materials:

- *The Different Dragon* by Jennifer Bryan
 - Old magazines and newspapers
 - Construction paper
 - Crayons, pencils, markers
 - Scissors
 - Glue
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Read (Time: 15 minutes)

Read the story *The Different Dragon* by Jennifer Bryan to your class.

Speak (Time: 15 minutes)

Say to your students:

In the story, we learn that Noah has two mothers named Momma and Go-Ma, a younger sister named Clair, two cats named Zoe and Diva, a gerbil named Rex and some fish named Jonah, Scoopy and Tiny all as part of his family. What an incredible family indeed! I want each of you to work with a partner. You will listen to your partner and learn about your partner's family and switch and tell your partner about your family.

Ask your students the following questions:

- *How is Noah's family the same as your family? Do you have any pets? How many brothers and sisters do you have or are you an only child?*
- *How is Noah's family different from yours?*
- *In the story Go-Ma told Noah, the dragon seemed very scary at first but Noah was courteous and kind to the dragon. He showed respect by listening to the dragon's concerns and by not judging. Noah also offered great advice when his friend the dragon needed it most! How would you show respect to the dragon?*
- *Although Noah's family may be similar to yours in some ways and different in others, we should always show respect to people. How do you show respect to people who are different from you? How do you want others to treat you and your family?*

Play (Time: 30 minutes)

As partners, have students create collages of their family using the newspapers, magazines and other artistic items (e.g., crayons, pencils, markers). Tell them to create a picture of their family based on the description they gave. Allot enough time for students to share their completed collage with the rest of the class.

Other books about families, listening and respect you may wish to consider:

- ***And To Think That We Thought That We'd Never Be Friends* by Mary Ann Hoberman (Grades: PreK-5)**
Fights are fights - right? Everyone has them: brothers and sisters, parents and children, friends and neighbors. You each get angry and you vow that you'll never be friends again! But it doesn't always have to be that way! For one brother and sister, a simple squabble turns into the biggest and friendliest parade their town, their country, and, in fact, the world have ever seen. And to think that they thought that they'd never be friends!
- ***Best Best Colors – Los Mejores Colores* by Eric Hoffman (Grades: PreK-3)**
Nate loves all of the wonderful colors he sees in his everyday life. When his Mamma Jean and Mamma Laura ask him about his favorite color, he wonders, "How can I choose just one?" Later, Nate learns that he likes all of the colors best when they're together and that he can have more than one favorite color and one best friend.
- ***It's OK to be Different* by Todd Parr (Grades: PreK-2)**
From the sensitive ("It's okay to be adopted" – the accompanying illustration shows a kangaroo with a puppy in her pouch), to the downright silly ("It's okay to eat macaroni and cheese in the bathtub"), children of every shape, size, color, family makeup and background will feel included in this witty, colorful book.
- ***My Name is Maria Isabel* by Alma Flor Ada (Grades: PreK-5)**
For Maria Isabel Salazar Lopez, the hardest thing about being the new girl in school is that the teacher doesn't call her by her real name. "We already have two Marias in this class," says her teacher. "Why don't we call you Mary instead?" But Maria Isabel has been named for her Papa's mother and for Chabela, her beloved Puerto Rican grandmother. Can she find a way to make her teacher see that if she loses her name, she's lost the most important part of herself?
- ***My Two Uncles* by Judith Vigna (Grades: 2-4)**
A young girl describes her close relationship with her Uncle Ned and his partner, Uncle Phil. Elly is sad when her grandfather refuses to invite Phil to a family celebration, and her father tries to explain. Ned's refusal to attend without Phil is treated with dignity, as is Elly's concern that Ned is angry with her for going to the party. Realistically, the grandfather's attitude shows only a small, though significant, change toward the end of the story. Expressive watercolors illustrate the story.
- ***Two Moms, the Zark, and Me* by Johnny Valentine (Grades: 1-4)**
A young child with two moms, a playful animal called a Zark, and the narrow-minded McFinks, all come together in this whimsical story that looks at just what a family is really all about.

For other books of interest for elementary-aged students, please visit our BookLink <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/booklink/index.html>.

For more lessons about respect, please visit our *No Name-Calling Week* website for elementary-level lessons available for free download at <http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/resources/record/109.html>.