

# Autism Awareness Lesson

Grades K - 2

## Objective:

Talk about the meaning of the word “acceptance.” Students will list words describing what “acceptance” means to them.

## Vocabulary:

Acceptance

## Materials:

Magazines  
Popsicle sticks  
Glue or tape

Scissors  
Crayons

## Intro:

Tell students that acceptance means being okay with people the way they are.

## Activity 1:

1. Students will each cut out one happy face and one sad face from a magazine.
2. Each face will be glued/taped onto a Popsicle stick.
3. The teacher will read various scenarios to the students and ask them to hold up the Popsicle stick showing how they feel after each sentence.

## Examples:

- “I see that you like cars. Would you like to talk to me about them?”
- “You can’t play with us because you don’t have brown hair.”
- “Ms. Smith, sometimes I see Joey on the playground. Can you show me some games I can play with him?”
- “I don’t understand you so I am going to stay away from you.”

## End with:

How would you feel if someone didn’t accept you because you are different?

## Activity 2:

1. Tell the students: April is Autism Awareness Month.
  - Autism is something that makes kids different just like hair color and favorite foods and hobbies do.
2. Read a book about autism to the class. A list of age appropriate books can be found by visiting, [www.autismnjambassador.org/booklist-kids](http://www.autismnjambassador.org/booklist-kids).
3. Ask the students to name words that show acceptance and list them on the board. I can show acceptance by being:

## Examples:

- Kind
  - Understanding
  - Friendly
  - Nice
  - A friend
4. Copy the puzzle piece on the back of this form and have students choose a word to fill in the blank.
  5. Students can decorate their puzzle piece and cut it out.
  6. Puzzle pieces can hang on bulletin boards or in the classroom.

**Remember to take photos and send them to [aamonth@autismnj.org](mailto:aamonth@autismnj.org) and you might see them in the 2016 Autism Ambassador Kit!**

