

A Flag About Me

Activity created by Fan Chu, Pearson Teacher Fellow and Teacher at Orange County Parents Together Incorporation in Orange, California.

This activity works best with:

- INDIVIDUAL CHILD
- SMALL GROUPS
- CLASSROOMS/LIBRARIES
- ACTIVITY STATIONS AT LARGE EVENTS

Preparation Time: MEDIUM

Materials: \$

OVERVIEW

Adults and children read *The Story of Ferdinand*. After discussion around themes in the story, children make their own flags that celebrate their special qualities. They draw pictures about an attribute that makes them unique or special. It would also be appropriate to have the children draw a scene of a time they were true to themselves. Adults engage in conversation around the concept of being special or true to one's self and encourage children to label the pictures with their name or words that represent what they depicted.

MATERIALS & PREPARATION

MATERIALS:

- Assorted colors of construction paper
- Markers, crayons
- Scissors
- Sticks (popsicle sticks, dowels) or pipe cleaners
- Glue
- Flag patterns (Triangle shapes and rectangle shapes)
- Styrofoam boxes or cardboard boxes with holes punch in them

PREPARATION:

- Prepare all the materials on the table.
- Cut out flag patterns of triangles and rectangles for children to trace if necessary.

INTRODUCTION

- Read *The Story of Ferdinand*. Adults should engage in dialogue with children, drawing on themes of the uniqueness of Ferdinand, what it means to be special or have different ideas (such as Ferdinand enjoying sitting under the cork tree).
- Adults should provide children with a simple definition of what a flag is by asking children if they have ever seen a flag and explaining that flags are used to share information and communicate a message. Adults should show images of flags from the book at this time (pages 43, 45, 59, and 65). "On page 59, there are flags from different countries. These flags are a way to show people where you live. There is a flag for the United States, and every state has its own flag too." Also, adults can explain the significance of the flags in the story.
- When the children are familiar with the concepts, have them brainstorm ideas about their own special qualities.
- Tell the children that we will be making flags, and they will feature what about each of them is special or unique. On page 45 there are images of flags with Ferdinand's name written on them. You might say, "Here is a flag for Ferdinand. Would you like to make your own flag?"

ACTIVITY

- Give the children a sheet of construction paper of their choice. Children use markers to trace or draw different shape patterns on their paper.
- Next, the children use scissors to cut out the shapes.
- Children use a variety of colors of marker or crayon to draw the pictures. Adults should encourage them to describe what's inside the pictures, and write in the few words. If children cannot write yet themselves, adults can write down what they say word for word. This way they can see their words come alive in print. Encourage children to write their name after that.
- Adults can assist them in using glue to stick the paper on the sticks or pipe cleaners.
- Have the children put their flags on display in the Styrofoam or cardboard box. You can also have a parade with the children waving their flags as the march along the parade route.

TIPS FOR CONVERSATION

- Adults can explain the meanings of words in the story (e.g. flag, bull, etc.) that will help build their understanding and knowledge of ideas and new information.
- Engage in conversation about Ferdinand's uniqueness. Ask questions about what he did that was different from the other bulls in the story. "Why do you think Ferdinand enjoyed sitting under the cork tree and smelling flowers?" You can show pictures of Ferdinand sitting under the tree on pages 19, 25, or 67.
- Have children brainstorm about their own special skills, talents, families, or attributes. "What do you like to do that is different from what your friends like to do?"

LEARNING CONNECTION

- Drawing, tracing, writing, cutting and gluing help to develop fine motor skills and eye-hand coordination.
- Children's language will develop through shared conversations and reading.
- Learning new ideas and information about the world, such as the purpose of flags, translates into increased vocabulary for children.
- This activity provides opportunities to understand and express a sense of self and to help the children learn that everyone (and every bull) is unique in their own ways

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