

Be True to Yourself Book

This activity works best with:

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

Preparation Time: LOW

Materials: \$

OVERVIEW

This activity asks children to create a book about themselves and explore being true to who they are inside. Children will have opportunities to connect their own story to *The Story of Ferdinand*.

MATERIALS & PREPARATION

MATERIALS:

- Plain white paper (approximately 2 pieces per book)
- Colored construction paper (9x12)
- Markers and/or crayons
- Stapler or hole puncher
- Yarn
- Photographs of the children (if you have them) and glue

PREPARATION:

Fold a few pieces of white paper inside a piece of construction paper to make a blank book. Create enough books so that each child can have one. Set up tables (or another space) with materials to fill in and bind the books.

INTRODUCTION

Tell the children that they will be able to make a book that is all about themselves.

ACTIVITY

- Invite children to fill in the book with a story about themselves told in words and pictures.
- If children cannot write yet themselves, encourage them to draw the pictures, and then you can write down what they say word for word. This way they can see their words come alive in print.
- Encourage children to choose a title for their book and remind them that they are the authors of the books.
- If there are photographs available, children can add photos of themselves with glue.
- Bind the books with staples along the fold, or punch holes and tie with yarn.
- Read the book back to children once complete (or if working in small groups encourage parents to find a space to read individually with their children)

TIPS FOR CONVERSATION

The following questions will help spark conversation about *The Story of Ferdinand* and the books the children are creating.

- What would Ferdinand write about in his book? Or, what kinds of things did Ferdinand like to do? (If the child can't remember, you can start the conversation by mentioning that he enjoyed sitting under the cork tree or that he liked to smell flowers.)
- What do you like to do at school or at home?
- Who is in your family? Who are your friends? (for younger children)
- What do you like to do with your friends, family, pet ...?

LEARNING CONNECTION

Through active experiences, like creating books, children learn reading skills and the fundamentals of how books work. Children should understand that:

- Books move from front to back
- Words explain the pictures in the book
- Text moves from left to right across the page
- Books have a title and an author

This activity also provides an opportunity to discuss the core message of *The Story of Ferdinand* – being true to oneself. All children have had, or will have, an experience in life where they need to stand up for themselves or make an unpopular choice. Ferdinand can serve as a role model for children, encouraging them to follow their personal values no matter what.

For more activities, visit www.readfortherecord.org