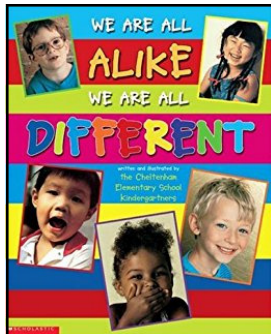


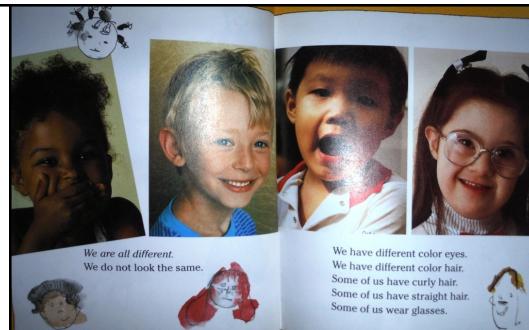
# Preschool Learning Story

## Building Blocks Preschool

### January 11, 2018



At the beginning of this small group project, we spent some time looking at pictures of our families and talking about what we noticed. During this conversation, Freya Mae began to talk about how her family members are different from each other. Because understanding how we alike and different is essential to children's development, we spent the next couple of times



we met together exploring that idea even deeper. Before the holiday break, the children shared many ideas about how we are the same and different. Veronica said, ***"Some people can have brown skin."***



Freya added, ***"And we can have light skin too."*** Talking about these similarities and differences opens the door for building self esteem and empathetic awareness of each other. Today we began by reading a book made by a Kindergarten class in Pennsylvania. In this book, the children talk about many things that are the same and different about their bodies, their families, their homes and even their interests. While we were reading this book, Macklin pointed out that the little girl featured on one of the pages had a similar tone as our friend Shaun. We then revis-

ited the idea that our skins are all different shades of color. After reading the story, Ms. Jennifer introduced a way that we could recreate our skin color by mixing different colors of paint. She explained that everyone that was interested in that idea could come over to the table, mix different colors and try it out on their skin to create a close match. Everyone in the group was excited for their turn to do this. After finding a color match, they were invited to add a print to a collaborative art piece. Afterwards, each child was invited to think of a name for the color. Bennet said, ***"Bennets color."*** Macklin & Elise said, ***"Light brown."*** Veronica said, ***"Little bit brown."*** Mackenzie said, ***"Bride color."*** Freya said, ***"Cinnamon roll."***







As the children added color to their skin, there was a lot of trial and error to create the right shade. Macklin was very fascinated by the darker colors. At one point he added a dark brown to his skin and said, ***"I really like this one."*** Veronica mixed all the shades

of brown looking for just the right one. As she mixed, her plate began sliding all over the table and Mackenzie offered to hold it steady for her. It was a little tricky, but in the end, Veronica found a shade she was satisfied with. At a later part in the morning, Ms. Jennifer invited Shaun to join us in creating a skin tone match. Some of the children stopped to observe him add some of the darker colors. Shaun was very interested in this activity and ended up painting his fingers, hand and arm. He then decided his skin tone should be called ***dark brown***.



***"Some teachers and parents are not sure they should encourage children to 'notice' and learn***

***about differences among people. They think it is best to teach only about how people are the same, worrying that learning about differences causes prejudice.***

***While well intentioned, this concern arises from a mistaken notion about the sources of bias. Differences, in and of themselves, do not create the problem. Children learn prejudice from prejudice—not from learning about human diversity. It is how people respond to differences that teaches bias and fear."*** An exert from Anti-Bias Education



for Young Children and Ourselves by Louise Derman-Sparks & Julie Olsen Edwards.