

ALBERTA DIVERSITY CHALLENGE – Part 3 SPARKS



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

Everyone is different. While we all come from a family, a community or country, there are still things that make us different from those around us. We are each special and unique. The three-year Diversity Challenge allows us to discover the diversity within our families, Guiding units, community, our world and ourselves. Complete just one year of the challenge or all three parts to discover the diversity that makes us unique. Part 1 and Part 2 are already available on the Albert Girl Guides website (<http://www.albertagirlguides.com/06challenges.html>)

CHALLENGE – Do any 6 of the following 9 activities

Hair (Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care - NNCC. Biles, B. (1994).

Go through magazines and catalogues to clip pictures of different colour and types of hair (straight, curling, texture, long, short etc). Glue each picture onto a different piece of cardstock. Discuss about how everyone's hair is different in colour, look, feel, texture and thickness. Place the pictures around the room. Have each Spark go to the picture most like them. Take a photo of each Spark and make a collage of the different styles, colours and shapes in your unit.

My Book

Plan a PJ/popcorn party where each Spark brings a book to be read at the meeting. Encourage the Sparks to bring books that talk about how people are different, different cultures, celebrations or family orientation. This meeting could also be planned as a Mother/Daughter meeting with each mom reading their own Spark's book aloud to the group.

Sharing Circle

This activity involves the Sparks sharing stories about themselves. Although it can be done exclusively in a sharing circle, it could be an activity including a skit, role play etc. Get the Sparks to think and share their answers to the following questions:

- Share a story of someone you respect
- Share a story of a time you took responsibility for something you had done or said
- Share a story of you being brave
- Share a story of when you told the truth even though it was hard to do so
- Share a story of when you felt sad or happy for someone

Me

This is an art activity that can be kept simple (crayons) or additional materials can be used to make it more involved (magazines, glitter, stickers etc). Have each Spark print her name on a sheet of paper and decorate it. Next have them add pictures or drawings of their favourite things around their name. Allow each Spark to describe their picture and post them in the meeting space.

Buddy Painting

This activity involves two Sparks working on a painting (or colouring) together. Take two pieces of paper and tape them together at the center (with an overlap). Have the Sparks to work together on their creation. Once the painting is complete, simply untape the large painting to make two smaller paintings. Explain to the Sparks they can take their smaller painting home and remember that this small painting is also part of a larger buddy one.

Communication

We may not all speak the same language but we can still communicate. Set up stations around the hall, each with a different method of communication for the Sparks to explore. Use verbal (talking, singing, telling stories, sounds we use), non-verbal (showing emotions, charades), visual (signs, letters, numbers) and written forms (books). You can also think about the different equipment we use to communicate (phone, alarm, film). After exploring the centers talk about how we are different and the same when we communicate.

A Me Puppet

Bring in a variety of craft supplies including pieces of fabric, buttons, yarn, decorative supplies and socks. Allow each Spark, with assistance, to create a sock puppet of them. Look at how all the puppets are different but still represent a Spark.

Homes Around the World

We all live in different homes. This is a craft activity that allows Sparks to build different kinds of homes. Bring to the meeting different boxes and shapes (rolls, canisters etc) as well as general craft supplies (fabric, crayons, glue) and pictures of houses around the world (National Geographic is a good source). Talk to the Sparks about where we live. What are our homes like? Why do we live in houses? Why are houses different from each other (location, weather, materials)? What makes our houses different? Show the Sparks pictures of different houses. Allow the Sparks to build their own house with the supplies provided.

What Can You Do?

Families within our communities can not always afford the basic needs. Talk to the Sparks about what they need to live. Ask how they could help other families. Organize a food, book, clothing or toy drive to pass along to a local charity or organization.