

Ollie Learns to Value Differences

Lesson Objective:

Students will explore the importance of valuing differences in others and understanding how unique strengths can contribute to teamwork and friendships.

Materials Needed:



- Copy of Book 1, Chapter 4: Ollie Learns To Value Differences
- Whiteboard/Markers
- Paper and pencils, crayons and markers
- Activity 1 - You're A STAR! Hanout
- Activity 2 - building materials (blocks, straws, tape)
- Home Connection Letter

Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Greeting Outline:

- Welcome the children and have them sit in a circle (if applicable)
- Briefly discuss things that make us special.

Greeting and Circle Time Teacher Script

1. Warm Welcome and Opening Discussion:

- "Good morning, class! Today we're going to talk about something very special—how being different makes us all unique and how those differences help us work better together. Have you ever noticed how your friends are good at different things than you are? Maybe you have a friend who's really fast, while you might be really good at drawing. We'll learn from Ollie and his friends how being different makes them a great team."
- Wait for the children to settle.

2. Discussion Starter

- "What's something that makes you different from your friends or classmates?"
Allow a few students to share their responses and celebrate their differences.
- "Today, we'll learn about how Ollie and his friends realize that their differences make them stronger and better friends. By the end of the lesson, you'll understand how differences can be something to celebrate."

Read the Chapter (15 minutes)

Story Time Outline:



- Read chapter 4 aloud. Encourage students to follow along.
- Ask questions during key parts in the story.

Story Time Teacher Script:

1. Prepare the Students for the Story:

- "This is the fourth chapter in Book 1 of our *Ollie and Friends* Chapter book series. Now, let's read a story called *Ollie Learns to Value Differences*. As I read, I want you to think about how Ollie and his friends' differences help them work together and have fun."
- (Read the chapter aloud, pausing at key moments to ask questions and engage the children.)

2. Read the Chapter with Emphasis on Key Moments:

While reading, pause during key moments.

Ask Questions:

- Why did Harriet have a hard time hiding during the game?
 - Help students connect Harriet's love for running with how it affects her actions.
- Why did Sammy choose to hide up high in the tree?
 - Encourage students to think about Sammy's strength in climbing.
- What differences did Ollie notice about his friends while they were playing?
 - Focus on how Ollie observes each friend's unique qualities.
- How do you think Buzz's small size helped him find a good hiding spot?
 - Reinforce the idea that Buzz's size is one of his strengths.
- What did Ollie mean when he said their differences sometimes make things tricky?
 - Highlight the challenges that come from differences, as well as their benefits.
- How did Betty and Buzz help each other with their different skills?
 - Encourage students to see how differences can complement each other.
- Why does Bennie say that sometimes he wants to do things his own way?
 - Discuss how having different ideas can lead to frustration but also new solutions.
- Why did Ollie think that their differences make them a stronger team?
 - Reinforce the idea that diversity of skills leads to better teamwork.
- What does Harriet say about how she and Bennie make a good team when playing tag?
 - Encourage students to think about how strengths can balance out challenges.
- Why did Ollie suggest the game "What Makes You a Star"?

- Focus on the idea of celebrating each friend's unique qualities.

Ollie and Friends Book 1 Chapter 4: Ollie Learns To Value Differences

One bright and sunny day, Ollie and his friends gathered at the playground, excited for a fun afternoon together. The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and everyone was in high spirits. But as they started to play, Ollie noticed something. Even though they were all great friends, sometimes their differences made things a bit tricky.

"Let's play a game!" Ollie suggested. "How about hide-and-seek?"

"Yay!" everyone cheered, and they quickly decided that Ollie would be the seeker first.

Ollie closed his eyes and began to count. "One... two... three..." He heard the quick footsteps of Harriet, the light buzzing of Buzz, and the rustling of leaves as his friends hurried to find their hiding spots.

When Ollie reached ten, he opened his eyes and began to search. It didn't take long for him to find Sammy, who was perched high up in a tree. "Got you, Sammy!" Ollie called out.

Sammy grinned as he climbed down. "I thought I had the perfect hiding spot up there!"

Next, Ollie found Harriet, who had tried to hide behind a bush but couldn't stop fidgeting.

"Found you, Harriet!" Ollie said with a laugh.

Harriet jumped up. "I can't stay still for too long. I just want to run!"

As the game went on, Ollie found all his friends, but he noticed something interesting. Each of them had hidden in a place that matched who they were. Harriet couldn't stay still, so she picked a spot where she could keep moving. Sammy loved climbing, so he hid up high. Buzz, being small and quick, had found a tiny space that only he could fit into.

Later, as they sat together to catch their breath, Ollie thought about how different each of his friends was and how those differences made them who they were. But he also remembered times when their differences had led to disagreements or made things harder.

"Hey, guys," Ollie began, "have you ever thought about how we're all really different? I mean, we all have things we're good at, but sometimes those differences make things tricky."

His friends looked at him, curious about what he meant.

"Like today," Ollie continued, "Harriet, you love running, so you had a hard time hiding. And Sammy, you love climbing, so you went high up in the tree. But that's what makes you both special. If we were all the same, the game would have been pretty boring, right?"

Harriet nodded. "Yeah, I guess it would have been! But sometimes it's hard when we don't all want to do the same thing."

"Exactly," Ollie agreed. "But I think our differences are what make us a great team. We can learn from each other and see things in new ways because we're not all the same."

Betty, who had been listening quietly, spoke up. "Like when we work on a project together. I love building things, but sometimes I get stuck on an idea. That's when I ask Buzz for help because he's really good at coming up with creative ideas. Even though we're different, it helps me think differently and make my projects better."

Buzz smiled proudly. "And I love helping! Betty, you're really good at making things sturdy, so when I have an idea, I know you can help me figure out how to actually build it."

Bennie, who had been thinking about what Ollie said, added, "And when we play games, sometimes I get frustrated because I want to do things my way. But then I remember that everyone else has their own way of playing, and that's okay. We just need to work together and respect each other's ideas."

Ollie nodded. "That's right, Bennie. It's not always easy, but when we appreciate what makes each of us unique, we can do amazing things together. Our differences aren't just challenges—they're strengths that help us see things in new ways."

Harriet grinned. "Like when we're playing tag. I'm fast, but sometimes I get tired. That's when I look to Bennie because he's strong and can keep going longer. We make a good team because we bring different things to the game."

Sammy, who had been listening intently, said, "And when we're exploring, I like to climb up high to see what's around, but sometimes I miss the little things on the ground. That's when Buzz helps me out because he's good at spotting details."

Ollie felt a warm glow inside as he looked at his friends. He realized that even though their differences could sometimes make things a bit tricky, they were what made their group special. Each friend brought something unique to the table, and together, they made a perfect team.

"You know," Ollie said, "we're lucky to have each other. Our differences help us grow and see the world in new ways. It's important to value what we have in common, but it's just as important to value what makes us different."

His friends all agreed, feeling proud of what they brought to the group. They knew that by appreciating each other's strengths and differences, they could tackle any challenge that came their way.

"Hey, I have an idea!" Ollie suddenly exclaimed. "Let's play a new game called 'What Makes You a Star.' We'll each take turns saying what makes another friend a star—something that's unique about them and why it's important to our group."

Everyone loved the idea and eagerly agreed to play.

Ollie started. "Harriet, you're a star because you're so fast and energetic. You always keep us moving and having fun, even when we're tired. You make our games exciting!"

Harriet beamed with pride. "Thanks, Ollie! And I think Sammy is a star because he's so brave and adventurous. He's always willing to climb to new heights and explore places that the rest of us might be too scared to go."

Sammy grinned, feeling proud of himself. "Thanks, Harriet! And I think Buzz is a star because he's small but mighty. He's always full of great ideas and notices things that the rest of us might miss."

Buzz buzzed with excitement. "Thanks, Sammy! And I think Betty is a star because she's so creative and patient. She can build anything and always comes up with the best plans for our projects."

Betty smiled warmly. "Thanks, Buzz! And I think Bennie is a star because he's strong and dependable. He's always there to help when we need it, and he makes sure we're all okay."

Bennie blushed a little, feeling happy. "Thanks, Betty! And I think Ollie is a star because he's wise and thoughtful. He always knows how to bring us together and help us solve our problems."

Ollie smiled at his friends, feeling a deep sense of happiness. "Thanks, everyone! You all have something special that makes you a star, and I'm so glad we're friends."

As they wrapped up their game, Ollie and his friends felt even closer than before. They realized that by celebrating each other's strengths and differences, they could support each other better and enjoy their time together even more.

And so, Ollie and his friends continued to play and explore, knowing that their differences weren't just something to accept—they were something to celebrate. They understood that by valuing both their similarities and their differences, they could learn from each other, grow together, and enjoy the best of what each of them had to offer. And whenever they played "What Makes You a Star," they were reminded of just how special they all were—together and apart.

3. Post-Chapter Teacher Script

- **Teacher:** "I love the You're A Star strategy to highlight the great things about each other. I'm looking forward to using this strategy in our class!"

4. Post-Chapter Questions

Ask these questions to help students reflect on the chapter and connect it to their own experiences:

- Why does Ollie think that their differences make them a stronger team?
 - Encourage students to think about how unique skills help the group.
- Can you think of a time when a friend's different skills helped you? How did that make the situation better?
 - Ask students to connect the story to their own experiences.
- How did Betty and Buzz work together to combine their strengths?

- Highlight how teamwork benefits from different talents.
- What do you think would happen if everyone in the group was the same and had the same abilities?
 - Encourage students to explore the importance of diversity in skills.
- Why did Ollie suggest playing the game 'What Makes You a Star'? What was he trying to show his friends?
 - Focus on Ollie's intent to celebrate their differences.
- How do you feel when someone recognizes or appreciates what makes you special?
 - Help students reflect on the impact of compliments and recognition.
- What are some ways you can show appreciation for someone else's unique skills or talents?
 - Encourage students to think about how they can support and value others.
- What can be challenging about working with people who have different ideas or ways of doing things? How can you overcome those challenges?
 - Prompt students to consider the challenges of differences and how to handle them.
- What do you think Ollie learned by the end of the story?
 - Ask students to summarize the main lesson Ollie and his friends learned.
- How can you use what you learned from Ollie's story in your own friendships or group projects?
 - Help students apply the story's lessons to their own lives.

Do an Activity (20 minutes)

- Students will think about how their brain makes predictions both about what might happen next and how they might feel or how others might feel.

Please choose from the following 2 activities:

Activity 1: What Makes You a Star Circle (15 minutes)

1. Introduce Activity

"Now we're going to play a fun game just like Ollie and his friends did! We're going to take turns highlighting the special things about someone that makes them a star—something that makes us unique and special."

- **Activity Instructions**

- Have students sit in a circle.
- Place every child's name in a bowl or a hat.
- Pass the bowl around the circle.



Each student will draw a name and then give the student whose name they selected a compliment saying something like, "You're a star because you're really good at helping others," or "You're a star because you're great at drawing." If they need help coming up with a compliment, they can get help from the class.

- After the compliment, the name is removed from circulation and the bowl is passed onto the next student in the circle, continuing around the circle until everyone has received and given a compliment.

** if the teacher likes, you can use the You're A Star handout for each child and as the compliments are given, write down the compliment on the star.

***This activity should be done 1 per week and at the end of the year, the teacher can send home the You're A STAR activity.

Activity 2: Teamwork Challenge (15 minutes)

2. Introduce Activity

"We're going to do a challenge that will show us how working together with our different strengths can help us reach a goal."



- **Activity Instructions**

- Divide students into small groups and give them a challenge, such as building the tallest tower or creating a bridge.
- Each group must work together, using their unique skills to complete the challenge. Encourage students to recognize what each member can contribute.
- After the challenge, ask students how their group worked together and how each member's strengths helped achieve the goal.

- **Reflection**



"Great job, everyone! Just like Ollie and his friends, we can see how each of us brings something special to the group. Our differences make us all stars!"

- **Wrapping it Up**

"Today, we learned how Ollie and his friends used their differences to work together and become a stronger team. We saw how our own differences make us special, and we learned to appreciate those things in ourselves and others."

Wrap Up the Lesson (5 minutes)

1. Review and Reflection Overview:

- Review what they learned about differences and teamwork
- Ask a few children to share when this might help them.

Review and Reflection Teacher Script

1. **Gather in a Circle for Reflection:**



"Let's take a moment to think about one special thing that makes you a star. Who would like to share?" Listen to a few responses and provide positive reinforcement.

2. **Closing**

- "Great job sharing and thinking about how our differences can make the group stronger."

Home Connection Letter

1. Sending Information Home:

- "Today, we learned about the importance of valuing differences. I'm going to give you a handout to take home that explains what we talked about today."
- Hand out the letters as the children prepare to leave.

Parent Letter

Sending Information Home:

- Provide each child with a letter to take home to their parents explaining the lesson

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today in class, your child learned about the importance of valuing differences. We read a story called *Ollie Learns to Value Differences*, where Ollie and his friends discovered that their unique strengths made them a better team. Through activities, your child practiced giving and receiving compliments and working with their classmates in a teamwork challenge.

In class, your child:

- Discussed how differences in personality, skills, and talents can strengthen friendships and teamwork.
- Gave and received compliments from classmates with the You're a STAR activity, celebrating their unique strengths.
- Worked in a team to complete a building challenge, learning to appreciate each group member's contributions.

We encourage you to talk to your child about what makes them unique and how differences can be something to celebrate!

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

You're a STAR!

