

# Celebrating Diversity in Your Classroom

*"We are becoming not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic of different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes and different dreams". – Jimmy Carter*

Below are some ideas to promote diversity in your classroom:

## Large Group:

- Sing songs in different languages.
- Show pictures of children around the world wearing different types of clothing. Have different fabric textures for children to feel and touch, and make a connection on clothing that what people wear around the world is related to where they live.
- Provide musical instruments from other countries and play different tempos, speed and patterns
- Teach the children about their 5 senses and use this opportunity to help them empathize with others who may not be able to use one of their senses like they do. For example:
  - Play a mystery box game where children are to guess what are they touching without seeing it.
  - Play a charades-like game in which children need to guess what you are trying to say to them. If children are ready, have them switch roles with you. Ask them how did it feel not being able to guess what you were saying or not being able to be understood?
  - Discuss about the ways people move from one place to the other show the different abilities props.

## Choice Time/ Free Play:

- Support their learning during free choice by using the props you set ahead to enhance their learning and acceptance. Lots of meaningful conversations can develop by using the props you added to your interest centers.
- Your classroom materials should also be labeled in the home language that represent the students in your classroom.

## Small Group:

- Encourage your children to draw a self-portrait using crayons, markers or paints that represent different skin tones.
- Provide different collage materials for the children to build a house of their own.
- Cook a traditional dish from another culture for example Latkes, tacos, etc.
- Create musical instruments from other countries