

Celebrating Our Diversity: Ages 4-5

Talking about similarities and difference in people helps your child:

- Better understand who he is as a person
- Respectfully interact with others who are different than he is
- Share information about your family's culture and traditions



Ideas to try with your child:

- Involve your child in family traditions, rituals and routines. Tell him why these are important to you.
- Respectfully point out differences among people to your child during the day. Use simple explanations: "That man uses a wheelchair because his legs aren't strong enough to hold him;" "Nicole has dark skin because her mom has dark skin."
- Children ask questions when they notice differences between themselves and others. Answer questions honestly, because your child will repeat what you have said as truth.

If your child is struggling:

- Chart how people in your family are different and yet the same: the color of eyes, hair, or skin. Expand the list of differences to include eyeglasses, wheelchairs, canes, or special clothing.
- Help him identify special things your family does; holiday celebrations, unique food, dress, or heritage language.

Going further:

- Expand your chart to include friends and neighbors; children and adults in your preschool, church group, or community play group.
- Participate in cultural activities around your community, celebrating the music, art, and food of many cultures.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 4-5** that parents can help improve at home.

