**Lesson 1: Individual Differences**
**Grade 4- Health and Puberty Education Alternative Lesson**
**Davidson County Schools**

**Note: The following two lessons are alternatives for Grade 4 Lessons 1-2 (Standards 4.ICR.2.1 and 4.ICR.2.2).**

| Essential Standard | Clarifying Objective |
|---|---|
| **4.ICR.1-** Understand healthy and effective interpersonal communication and relationships | **4. ICR.1.1-** Explain the importance of showing respect for self and respect and empathy for others. |

**ELA Common Core Standard for 4th Grade**

W.4.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

- Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.
- Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.
- Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., f*or instance*, *in order to*, *in addition*).
- Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

**Materials Needed:**

- A variety of pencils (used, unused, different colors, etc.)
- Parent letter sent home prior to the lesson
- Student List Template "Pencils" (optional)
- Writing Prompt Sheet
- Blank paper for writing

**Focus:**

- Place pencils on the table in the front of the room.
- Ask the students to come by them and make two lists.
- On one list they should put how the pencils are the same and on the second list describe how the pencils are different.
- After everyone has made their own personal lists, make a group list.
- Explain that even though they are all pencils, they still each have their own unique features.

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## Teacher Input:

Say the following to the group:

- No two people are alike and that we all have different shapes and sizes.
- Sometimes we are very different even though we may be the same age. We all grow up and change at different rates.
- There is no correct size and that all sizes and shapes of individual are different and unique to that individual.
- It is never okay to make fun of someone because of their size or shape.
- Discuss with the students some of the things that make us unique individuals. These may include hair color, eye color, size, hobbies, preferences in movies, TV, and books as well as many other characteristics.

## Practice and Assessment:

- As a group, discuss the scenarios about growing up using the following questions:
  1) How does the main character feel about growing up?
  2) What steps can you take to be a respectful friend to him or her?

- Scenarios:
  - Scenario 1: Jeanne is the last person chosen for teams in physical education. She is not athletic and very short. Her nickname is "Shorty."
  - Scenario 2: Drew is the smallest boy in the 4th grade. Two guys picked Drew up and put him in the trashcan.
  - Scenario 3: Anthony has grown two shoe sizes since Christmas. As a result, he is clumsy and the kids laugh whenever he falls down.
  - Scenario 4: Jayden is very popular and has lots of friends. Recently girls have started texting him and sending him pictures. They are always asking Jayden's friends if he likes them. Jayden loves basketball and doesn't think about girls in 4th grade.
  - Scenario 5: Kate gets to talk on the phone with boys but Mya's parents do not let her. Mya thinks that Kate is more popular than she is.
- Ask students to choose one of the characters they feel needs the most cheering up. Ask the student to write a letter exhibiting the characteristics of a respectful friend.

## Practice & Assessment:

- Students should write an informative text describing what they believe makes them most unique.