

# Acceptance

**Acceptance** means respecting the differences among people. It entails recognizing different opinions and ideas.

## Lesson 1

Read the description of ACCEPTANCE. Explain to students that many types of people live in America. As Americans, we must learn to accept differences among the people of our nation. Read: Jesse Jackson said, "America is like a quilt, with many colors and sizes, all put together by one thread." Think about what this quote means. Quilts are blankets made from squares of material sewn together to create a design. Since colonial days, women would get together to create quilts. Brainstorm with students about the many nationalities of people they know. Write their responses on the board. (Examples could include: Indian, Chinese, African, American, French, Spanish, etc.) Instruct students to choose one of the words and write it on a sheet of paper. Collect the papers to use in tomorrow's activity.

**School/Home Link:** Tell students to explain Jesse Jackson's quote to a family member.

## Lesson 2

Review the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Read: Today, we will work on our class quilt. When we're done, we'll display our paper acceptance quilt. Distribute the quilt papers from yesterday's activity. Instruct students to color and decorate their quilt paper. After 3-4 minutes, collect the quilt papers. While collecting the quilt papers invite students to compare their classroom to a quilt. Inform students that you will assemble their sheets into a quilt at a later time. When time allows, tape one side of each sheet to another to make 3-4 rows. Then, tape the rows one on top of the other to form a quilt. Display the quilt when complete.

**School/Home Link:** Tell students to compare with a family member how their family is like a quilt. Invite parents to make an effort to visit the classroom so they can see the class Acceptance Quilt.

## Lesson 3

Review the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Read: We often practice acceptance without actually thinking about it. If we are paid a compliment, we should accept it by saying, "Thank you." If invited to a party, you may respond, "Sure, I'd like to attend." It is important to know how to accept things properly. As time allows, invite students to role-play nice ways to accept something or someone.

**School/Home Link:** Tell students to role-play with family members ways to show acceptance.

## Lesson 4

Review the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Read: Each of us has things we are good at and things we can't do as well. When we accept the fact that everyone has weaknesses, it may help to overcome one of our own weaknesses. Ask the class to copy and complete the following two sentences.

I am very good at \_\_\_\_\_.  
I am not very good at \_\_\_\_\_.

Ask students to read their sentences to a partner. As time allows, students may offer suggestions to help their partner overcome a weakness. Explain that helping a friend overcome a weakness may help them as well. Ask students if they could accept other students' weaknesses easier after realizing everyone has some weaknesses and no one is perfect.

**School/Home Link:** Tell students to bring home their list of strengths and weaknesses and to talk with family members about helping with overcoming their weaknesses.

## Lesson 5

Read the meaning of ACCEPTANCE. Explain how the Pilgrims experienced acceptance from the Native Americans. Read: Quintano was a Native American who helped the Pilgrims. He taught them how to grow corn and use fish as fertilizer for their grain. He helped them hunt and was a friend even though they were different. They had a different language, different colored skin, and different customs. Call on 2-3 students to tell how difficult it would have been for the Pilgrims had Quintano not shown them acceptance and respect.

**School/Home Link:** Tell students to share with a family member the lessons learned from Quintano and ask what lesson we can learn from it today.

## Common Core English Language Arts Standards:

SL.3.1, SL.3.1.d, L.3.1, L.3.2, L.3.3, L.3.5, L.3.5.b, L.4.5.c, L.4.6