



All About Me Theme

This is a great theme for building self-esteem, getting to know each other, and a super way to start off a school year. Make sure to take pictures of all the children in your program. They can be used for a variety of activities for this theme!

Language & Literacy

Books

Chrysanthemum

by Kevin Henkes

I Like Myself!

by Karen Beaumont

I Like Me!

by Nancy Carlson

Here Are My Hands

by Bill Martin Jr.

Leo the Late Bloomer

by Robert Kraus

Quick as a Cricket

by Audrey Wood

From Head to Toe

by Eric Carle

Eyes, Nose, Fingers, and Toes

by Judy Hindley

Today I Feel Silly & Other Moods That Make My Day

by Jamie Lee Curtis

All by Myself

by Mercer Mayer

The Colors of Us

by Karen Katz

It's Okay to Be Different

by Todd Parr

Whoever You Are

by Mem Fox

The list of books on this topic is endless! These are some good ones to get you started or to add to enhance your theme.

Activities

- Toss around a ball and have each child say something positive about his or her self.
- Create an "**All About Me**" class book or display info sheets on all of your students. (Download the **All About Me Question Sheet** from the **Theme Enhancement** page)

- Have children write or draw in a personal journal words/things to describe themselves.
- Ask children to bring in a picture of their family and let them take turns telling about their family members during circle or group time. Use the pictures to create a class bulletin board about families.

Songs, Poems, & Finger-plays

I am Special

I am special,

I am special.

So are you,

So are you.

We are very special,

We are very special.

Yes it's true,

Yes it's true!

Math & Number Concepts

My Favorites Graph- Ask the children to think of their favorite food, candy, color, or some other detail about themselves. On chart paper show children how to graph how many children like each thing. Make it more interactive by having the children write their names on a post it note and place their name next to their favorite thing. Use the graph to practice counting and comparing.

Classmates Number Match- Do a counting activity with your class by having the children get into groups. Count how many children are in each group. Take a picture of each group. Use the pictures to create a class number matching game.

Art Activities

Free Painting- Any kind of free painting is a great way for children to express their individuality.

Self Portrait- Discuss with the children what a self-portrait is. Show them pictures of self-portraits different artists have painted. Have a couple of child safe mirrors available for the children to look at when painting at the easel. Encourage them to paint a self-portrait.

My Favorite Things Collage- Provide old magazines for children to cut out pictures of things they like and have them glue them on a piece of construction paper.

For younger preschoolers who are not proficient at cutting yet, precut a bunch of pictures for them to use

Life Sized Me- Trace children's bodies on large pieces of paper from a paper roll. Provide them with supplies to decorate their bodies and add clothing details.

Me Puppets- Give each child a "body" shape cut from construction paper. Let the children add fabric scraps, yarn, and wiggle eye as well as other details to make themselves into a puppet. Attach them to large craft sticks.

Handprint Collage- Make a class handprint collage. Talk about how each of the children is unique and have them paint their hand and press it onto a large sheet of paper. Label the collage with your program or class name and display it in your room.

Dramatic Play

- Set out several child safe mirrors in the dramatic play area!
- Encourage the children to dress up in different dress up clothes and tell you why they choose those clothes.

Music & Movement

Oh Do You Know the Kids in School (or daycare)- (sung to the tune of "Oh do you know the muffin man")

Have the children stand in a circle holding hands. One person is chosen to be "it". They will wear a blindfold. The other children circle around them holding hands while singing "Oh do you know the kids in school."

When the verse stops, the child in the middle walks forward and finds a classmate. They then have to try to identify how the classmate is just by touching them. Adults may need to help them out by having them touch the person's hair or clothing. After they guess then that child would get a turn.

If you- (a listening game)

Start out by telling the children you will be playing a game about following directions. Have them spread out and ask them to listen carefully. Ask questions and give them actions to do for the answers.

For example, "If you like the color blue, jump up and down." "If you have a B in your name, touch your nose." "If you have hair that touches your ears, wiggle your fingers."

Science & Sensory

Fingerprints- Provide washable stamp pads and white paper for the children to stamp and observe their own fingerprints. Take a look at them using magnifying glasses. Ask the children what they notice about the fingerprints. Are they different? Are they the same? What else do they notice? Explain to the children that no two people have the exact same fingerprints.

Who's Part Discovery- Enlarge pictures of the children. Cut out just certain body parts like eyes, arms, hair, mouths, etc. Show the parts to the children and see if they can name the body part and the person it belongs to! This is a great activity to reinforce the names of body parts and it promotes careful observation skill. Be sure to include elbow, hip, shoulder, chin, and ankle, these are often ones children do not know.

Blocks & Building

Class Blocks- Print a pictures of each child in your program. Tape the pictures onto small blocks from your block area. Let the children use the picture blocks in their play with the blocks.

Class Building Book- Have a camera ready to take a picture of something the children build in the block area that they are especially proud of. Ask the child to tell you about his or her building and record their response. Print a copy of the picture and their response on paper to create a class book of everyone's projects. Keep the book in the block and building area.

Puzzles, Games & Manipulatives

Classmate's Puzzles- Print a large picture of each child in your program. Cut the picture into large pieces to make each child a "one-of-a-kind" puzzle. Place the pieces into individual plastic bags and set several out at a time in the puzzle area. See if the children can figure out whom they are putting together. Allow the children to take home their own puzzle after a couple of weeks.

Classmates Matching- Make double copies of pictures of all your students to create a class matching game. Glue them to construction paper or card stock and laminate to make them extra durable.

Technology

On the Starfall Website children can create an online interactive book about themselves!

<http://more2.starfall.com/n/level-b/index/load.htm?>

Cooking/Snack

Trail Mix- Let children create their very own trail mix. Provide a variety of trail mix ingredients and let them add a few spoonfuls of their favorites to a plastic snack baggie with their name on it. Label each one with "(child's name) Special Trail Mix."

Me Crackers- Give each child a large round cracker. Let them create a face using squeeze cheese. Have some M&M's for them to create eyes, string liquorish for a mouth, etc.

Bulletin Boards

Hands Down... We are Unique! - Hand children's artwork or other creations on a bulletin board with this title. Put a cardstock handprint (purchased or made) next to each persons work with their name printed on it.

Jot down your own ideas here...