

**Let's Make a Garden:**  
**A No Place for Hate Activity**

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SCP-585-30: Counseling the Culturally Diverse Populations

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April 4, 2022

**Let's Make a Garden: A No Place for Hate Activity**

**Grade Level:** Elementary School, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades

**Single classroom lesson**

**ASCA Domain:** Social/Emotional

**Mindset Standards:** M1 and M2

**Behavior Standards:** B-SS 2 and B-SS 4

**Learning Objectives:**

- Students will accept and celebrate different ways in which people are abled or disabled.
- Students participate in activism by encouraging others to do the same.

**Materials Needed:**

Large sheets of green and blue colored paper; flower cutouts or [flower-shaped post-it's](#); writing utensils; tape; small bin to leave outside the classrooms with writing utensils, spare flowers, and tape; posterboard; white board

**Preparation:**

Set up a large background in the hall outside the classroom (on bulletin or wall) for the garden (green for the grass, blue for the sky). Print out some of the questions from the story and paste them throughout the landscape. Children will be writing their answers on paper flowers and then taping or gluing them to the landscape, so leave space around each question for flowers. Cut out flowers (enough for one per question per child, plus 20 or so additional flowers).

**Procedure:**

1. Tell students you are going to be reading a story about ways that we have different abilities and disabilities. Some of these differences we can see, like a wheelchair or a cane, and others we can't. Ask students to name differences that we can see and differences we can't see, recording on a whiteboard. They might struggle to think of these – follow up after watching the read-aloud as a measure of outcome.
2. Ask the students if they noticed the blank garden you've made outside the classroom. Ask them to imagine that we are all flowers in a garden and ask them to imagine a garden where each flower looked the same, smelled the same, was the same shape.
3. Hand out flower cutouts and writing utensils and tell the students that they'll be listening to a story, and at different parts in the story you'll ask them to write an answer to a question on their flowers, and they will "plant" their flowers in the garden outside the classroom. They don't need to write their names, but they can if they would like to.
4. Tell students that the story they'll be hearing is written by Sonia Sotomayor, who is a Supreme Court Justice. This means that she has the highest job a judge can have in our country. Explain that Sotomayor found out that she had diabetes when she was 8. The person who drew the pictures in the book is Rafael Lopez, who has asthma. You can ask the children if they have asthma or diabetes or know someone who does.
5. Show the video [Just Ask!](#). At moments in the story where a question you've pasted in your garden is asked, pause the video, ask each student to answer the question on one of their flowers, and then quietly walk out to the hallway and "plant" it in the appropriate spot on the garden.
6. After the story, engage students in a discussion. See if they can now answer more questions about differences that we can't see. Ask them which of the differences were familiar to them. Which were unfamiliar?
7. Talk to the students about the garden they've created out of their different answers. Can they see how all their answers made the garden, that was blank space at the beginning of the class, exciting and rich and complex? Can they see how this is like our world?
8. Tell them that they can include the rest of the school in the lesson, that they can help other people in the school understand how wonderful it is that we are all different. They can ask their fellow students and teachers to contribute their answers to the garden.
9. Make a poster (with students dictating) crafting the invitation and hang it alongside the garden in the hallway, along with the bin with writing utensils, tape, and flowers.

### References

American School Counselor Association. Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success.

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/Standards-Positions/Standards/ASCA-Mindsets-Behaviors-for-Student-Success>

Sotomayor, S. (2021). *Just Ask!* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QywOvPQy9rc>.

No Place for Hate. (2021). AntiDefamation League. <https://noplaceforhate.org>