

"I Am Special As I Am"

LESSON INTENTION

The lesson intention today is for the children to understand that no matter who they are or how big they are there is a contribution to the world that only they can make.

Common Ground

Native American Belief:

They believe that the answers to life's questions lie within.

Unity Belief:

Prayer is creative thinking that heightens the connection with God-Mind and therefore brings forth wisdom, healing, prosperity, and everything good.

Affirmation

I am special just as I am.

Prayer Focus

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Pre-session Activity

WELCOME AT THE DOOR

- Ⓢ This is the time we create a safe & sacred space for the children.
- Ⓢ Invite a teacher and students to greet the children at the door to the Youth Room. The teacher needs to be at eye-level with the children.
- Ⓢ Possible greeting: ***"It's so good to see you. We've been waiting for you."***
- Ⓢ If the children have toys with them invite them to place them on the shelf where they can pick them up on the way out.
- Ⓢ ***Invite them to sign in.***
- Ⓢ If they have not done so, invite them to choose a Job Card/Service Opportunity. ***Every child needs one.***

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- Ⓢ Create name tags
- Ⓢ Create Prayer Sticks

GATHERING CIRCLE

- Ⓢ At 11:15 am, after the children have completed the Opening Activities, ***invite the "Gong Sounder"*** to sound the gong to call everyone to the Gathering Circle. The children then choose a carpet square and take their seat in the circle.
- Ⓢ The teacher now "sets the circle" and reinforces the ideas that we are all one and we are in a safe place. ***Now is the time to review the Heart Agreement that should be posted in the area.***
- Ⓢ Invite the ***Daily Inspiration Reader*** to read the Daily Word.
- Ⓢ Pray for others. Either lead the children in a prayer for others or use this time to pray with the prayer stick requests. ***Place the "Prayer Bowl" in the center of the room and one by one the children read their prayer word or words and place their stick in the bowl.***
- Ⓢ Collect a love offering.
- Ⓢ Movement/Song – ***"I Wish You Well" – Words on Power Point.***

Divide Into Individual Classrooms

Story

"Sun Catcher" *Native Canadian (Algonquin)*

Tcakabesh was a fine trapper. He made the strongest nets woven from hemp fibers. He set his nets not sure what he would capture. The next day his family awakened him because the sun had not yet risen and it was past due. Tcakabesh grew concerned and set out with his son to see what the problem was.

Suddenly they discovered that they had captured the sun in the nets. The trapper tried to get close to the net to cut the sun loose but the sun's heat was too intense. One by one the animals of the forest tried to help but each one failed. Finally a brave mouse approached and nibbled through the ropes even though the sun burned the hair off her back.

Story Focus:

This story tells us that when the biggest fail, it is the smallest that succeed. We each have a special place in the world and it is up to us to find it.

Unity Principle: #1 - "There is only one power and one presence in the universe, God, who is all good and active in everything, everywhere."

Discussion

- Ⓢ Who was Tcakabesh and what did he make?
- Ⓢ Where did he set his net?
- Ⓢ Why were his wife and daughters concerned?
- Ⓢ What did Tcakabesh and his son find caught in the net?
- Ⓢ Who tried to free it?
- Ⓢ Who was the only one able to free it?
- Ⓢ Tell of a time when only you could do a particular thing?
- Ⓢ What was it like?
- Ⓢ How did you feel?
- Ⓢ What made you try?
- Ⓢ How did it help you in your life?

Creative Expression - Choose one

Telling Our Story of "Great Adventure"

The goal is to give the children a greater understanding of how Native Americans communicated their stories to their children and to give them a chance to tell the story of their own "Great Adventure." We all have something special that we were not sure we could do. God makes us all special.

Materials: paper bags; pencil; ruler; scissors; paintbrush; acrylic paints; small bowl of water; paper towels; newspaper; crayons and oil pastels.

To be done ahead:

Soak the bags in water. Carefully open it into one piece. Crush the bag into a tight ball to ring out the water. Carefully smooth out the bag and let it dry on newspaper.

Activity:

1. Children will think of a great adventure they had – something they overcame – or something Spirit helped them with.
2. Think of some pictures that would accurately portray your story. They must tell the story in pictures only and draw them in sequence so others can read the story back.
3. Draw the pictures on the dried paper bag with crayons or pastels.
4. Rip fringes on the sides of the bag.
5. Share your "Great Adventure" story with others.

Totem Pole

Totem poles are made by Tlingit Indians of the Pacific Northwest. Traditionally, each Totem Pole tells the story of a Native American family's ancestral spirits and family history (pictured in human and animal form). They depict spirits as people, mythical beasts, and wildlife treasured by the Tlingit Tribe. These huge wooden poles often show the bald eagle, grizzly bear, moose, beaver, otter, mountain goat, wolf, whale, porpoise; seal; sea lion and salmon.

Materials: A paper towel tube; crayons or markers; brown construction paper; scissors; white glue and 2 popsicle sticks.

1. Wrap a piece of construction paper around a paper towel tube to see what size paper you will need. Trim the paper to the right height and width (allow about a half inch overlap around the tube, so you can glue the edges.)

2. Divide the paper into 4 or more horizontal sections, depending on how many people you will include.
3. Encourage the children to think about the people in their families and decide who they want to include on the pole. They will need a paper section for each one. Also encourage them to choose an animal to represent each person on their pole using the characteristics of the animals to help in the choice.
4. Draw a different animal face on each section of the paper. Put most of the facial details in the middle of each section.
5. Wrap the paper around the paper towel tube and glue the seams.
6. Draw wings or arms for some or all of the animals. Cut them out and decorate them. Glue them to the back of the totem pole.
7. Glue 2 popsicle sticks to the base so that your totem pole stand upright.