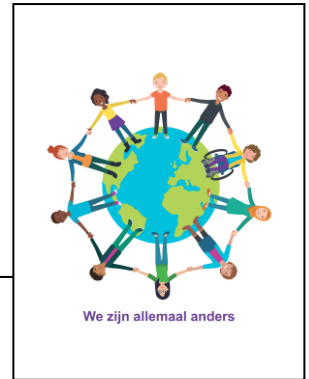


Newsletter De Vreedzame School

Block 6: We are all different



Block 6: General

In Block 6 the lessons are about similarities and differences between people. We want to teach the children to deal with differences of opinion and differences in habits, lifestyle, worldview, age, gender and in culture. We work to accept and appreciate them. In addition to differences, there are also similarities. The children learn that you see this reflected within their own families, class, school and society

To deal with differences well, you have to be able to talk about them. It is about listening to the other, forming an opinion, being able to change your opinion and defending your own. In this way we want to combat prejudice.

Through a positive approach the children experience differences as natural instead of scary or strange.

This block is about acceptance, tolerance and appreciation. These are not things that can be transferred through a lesson.

Therefore, we teach the lessons in project form, where the children explore their own families and class, conduct interviews and make work on different worldviews. The children work in pairs or groups and discuss their findings with the whole class.

In addition to these teaching activities, how we ourselves as teachers deal with similarities and differences is very important. We try as much as possible to express acceptance and appreciation of similarities and differences in our own group and school. We make children aware of possible prejudices and set clear boundaries for what behavior is no longer acceptable, i.e., what behavior is contrary to the intentions of this block.

We are committed to setting a good example to the children.

With the lessons, our own attitude and with parental support, we are confident that everyone has a good time at our school because "being different is allowed."

If you would like to learn more about The Peaceful School please visit:

www.devreedzameschool.nl

We start the lessons from:

Block 6: We are all different

Goal: to create an open attitude among students about differences between people.

The lessons focus on: learning to discover differences and similarities and about how to deal with those differences.

- In group 1-2 it is about exploring the students' families
- In grade 3, it is about differences and similarities in the classroom
- In grade 4, differences and similarities between families take center stage
- In grade 5, differences and similarities in the school are addressed
- In grade 6 differences and similarities between classmates
- In group 7 it is about worldviews
- Group 8 explores how all these differences are given a voice in our democratic society, and how we have organized that in our democratic society.

In block 5 – "We are all contributing" the children have learned:

- That we are a school where everyone actively participates and helps out
- That there are topics that we as children are really allowed to talk about
- That you can go to a mediator if you cannot solve a conflict yourself. A mediator can be a teacher or a student from group 7 or 8
- What a committee is and how it works, for example a party committee makes suggestions for birthdays and holidays
- How to apply for a place on a committee
- How we decide who will be on the committee



Tip for home

- Your child may come home with assignments about your family and relatives. We ask you to discuss this with your child. It is about similarities and differences between family members, family on the basis that differences are allowed.
- Be aware of your own judgments and prejudices about environment, family, skin color and how this is discussed in your own family.

We had engineering day
We had made things out of garbage.
And then someone thought of an exhibition, a kind of museum.
And then someone else thought of inviting people to come and have a look and then someone else thought of selling food and drinks and then someone else thought of making the food themselves, cookies and cakes and stuff.
And then another came up with the idea of donating the money we get for it to charity.
And then we priced and sold everything ourselves
And then we raised €927.
This went to another country for a water pump.
We came up with that as a class

The technique committee

Ebubekir from grade 7 sang the following self-written rap at the mediator graduation ceremony

I want to tell you something right now
Because the rules at school count
Have respect for others
That way you can change a lot
You don't have to argue
Solve it by talking
Listen to each other
That's how you get things done
Try not to hurt each other
But have a nice chat
You don't have to discriminate against someone
You can also try something else
Speak Dutch at school and on the street
So everyone understands you equally well
If you want everyone to trust you
Don't lie and don't be naughty
Don't run through the hallway
Don't think no one sees you
Don't ride your bike in the schoolyard
Because with an accident you hurt someone
Use things as if they were your own
Don't destroy things, that's not nice
And if you're angry put on your yellow hat
And say to the other: "Stop stop it!".

Report 2 mediators

Hello, we are Puck and Mathilde. We are mediators, for 2 years now. Almost every week we walk outside to see if there is an argument. Of course the children can come to us with a conflict or argument. No one always comes to us. Sometimes a teacher also comes to us and asks if we want to resolve a conflict. To become a mediator, we had to sign up (apply) in class, then you had to say why you wanted to become a mediator. If you were chosen, you had 3 Mondays of classes, then you learned how to deal with a conflict.

If you have to resolve a conflict, there are also rules that the kids with the conflict have to follow. These are the rules:

- Everyone does their best to resolve the conflict.
- We don't curse.
- We don't talk through each other.

An example: Rik and Ryan are playing soccer. Rik kicks Ryan's shin (accidentally). Ryan got angry and started swearing. Rik didn't like it and went to the mediators. The mediators helped resolve it. This was the solution: Ryan is not going to swear next time and get less angry and Rik is going to watch out better. If there is a really big problem we get the help of the teachers.

Visiting group 1-2

The lesson is conducted in the playroom.

It starts with an introductory song: "all birds fly." The children enthusiastically join in.

"I can't fly," says a preschooler who is at school for the first time that day, embarrassed. The teacher reassures him, and the preschooler next to him spontaneously helps with the next task.

Then the children sit in a circle around the gym mat. The teacher tells the story of Beaver. Beaver has built a raft. He wants to use it to sail across the river to the sea, and all the animals he encounters may join him. The children sing "Sailing down the big river" and each time an animal is added.

When the raft is full, Frog wants to be on it too. Beaver says he can't. Frog does it anyway and the raft sinks. All the children plunge into the water. Beaver is very angry with Frog.

The children go back into the circle.

The teacher asks; can I help you with your argument? The teacher takes turns asking Beaver and Frog what happened. Then they get to come up with a solution to their conflict. The solution becomes that Beaver will build a bigger raft next time.

The teacher says "I have now helped Beaver and Frog solve their quarrel. Do you think you can do that too? Next time we will practice that."