



Listening Time:



40:27

SEASON 3, EPISODE 9

Celebrating Learning Differences

In the United States, about 15% of students receive special education or related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Learning differences aren't all alike, but they can all affect how people process, store, and retrieve information — and they can have an impact on many parts of life, from learning to memory to how people express themselves and how people develop relationships with one another.

In this episode, Todd talks with four children — Reese, Willa-Kate, Oliver, and Alessio — all of whom have diagnosed learning differences. They share their experiences and feelings related to their learning differences and go on a journey to the Land of Qook-a-lackas to help a Qook-a-lacka friend, Professor Kimpton, reconsider the learning differences (and superpowers) of one Qook-a-leekie student. This episode is for all children and families. It can help them to understand — and rethink — their own differences and their friends' and classmates' differences. It can also help children and families think of strategies they can use to persevere through challenges.

The learning activities will help children explore the ideas in the episode, building empathy, curiosity, and problem solving skills.



Build A School

K-3rd Grade



Goals

- ♥ Cultivate a classroom community
- ♥ Build empathy and curiosity
- ♥ Inspire ownership and improve problem solving skills

Instructions



Play the Episode

If the class has not yet listened to the "Celebrating Learning Differences" episode, start by listening! It's wherever you listen to podcasts. Learn more (or listen) at playsparkler.org/podcast.

Materials



Get Ready! Here's what you'll need:

- ♥ Worksheet on page 3-4
- ♥ Pens, crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Discussion



Let's brainstorm ideas for a dream school that will work for all kinds of learners:

- ♥ What would the school look like? How should it be built?
- ♥ What would each classroom have available?
- ♥ What subjects would be taught at this school?
- ♥ How would the curriculum — math, science, reading/writing, social studies, etc. — be taught?
- ♥ What food is served in the cafeteria?
- ♥ What extras does the school have?
- ♥ What's the school's name?

Activity



Next invite everyone to use the worksheet to design their own Dream School that will help different learners thrive. Consider: What needs do students have? How will the Dream School help meet those needs? Encourage students to come up with creative examples! For example, if a learner needs to move their body during the day, the Dream School might have a row of stationary bikes that students can use during the day. After brainstorming, ask each student to draw the special elements of their own Dream Schools!



MY DREAM SCHOOL

by _____

needs

solutions



MY DREAM SCHOOL

by _____

