



Listening Time:



31:53

SEASON 4 , THEME 5

Inclusion Matters

On this kidventure episode, two kids — Scarlett and Zach — talk about their disabilities and share their experiences with inclusion. As Scarlett explains, inclusion "means that everybody can play, no matter your disability or how you walk or how you roll or anything like that."

Too often, children with disabilities don't have the opportunity to play with peers. Inclusive playgrounds like the ones Zach and Scarlett describe in the episode create an opportunity for all kids — of different abilities — to play together and have FUN!

Through the following activities, work with your students to think about how we can include all people, with all different abilities and disabilities. This will build children's sense of belonging, respect, and value for each person.



Little Kids, Big Hearts Podcast

Learning Extensions

Accessibility Walk

Pre-K-3rd Grade



Goals

- ♥ Build problem solving skills.
- ♥ Connect with your community.
- ♥ Develop empathy.

Instructions



Play the Episode

If the class has not yet listened to the “Inclusion Matters” episode of Little Kids, Big Hearts, 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
- ♥ Pencil

Activity



Observe and Report

- ♥ Take a walk around the school or playground together, and ask students to note anything that might be difficult for someone with a disability.
- ♥ Examples:
 - ♥ Stairs without ramps
 - ♥ Narrow doorways that wouldn't fit a wheelchair
 - ♥ Playground equipment that's not accessible for all
- ♥ Break into teams of 4/5 people each and record the areas you noticed that could be more inclusive toward people with different abilities.
- ♥ If you notice spaces that are already inclusive, jot those down, too.

Discussion



After all groups have a chance to record their observations, meet as a class and discuss your thoughts:

- ♥ What changes would make our school or playground more inclusive?
- ♥ What kinds of solutions did you come up with?
- ♥ How can we help advocate for these kind of changes?



Accessibility Walk

Location

Observation

Solution

Inclusion Success!

If you witness spaces on your walk that are already considering all bodies, share them here!



Inclusive Playground Design

1st - 3rd Grade



Goals

- ♥ Cultivate creativity and imagination
- ♥ Sharpen problem solving skills
- ♥ Develop empathy
- ♥ Learn about the power of inclusion

Instructions



Play the Episode

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Challenge



Quinnly and Todd need your help. Quinnly’s friends want to design an inclusive space. The Glimmerwings and the Roll-a-roos—love to play together, but their new community center isn’t built in a way that works for both of them. Quinnly needs your help to redesign the space so everyone can have fun and feel included!



About the Glimmerwings:

- ♥ The Glimmerwings have shimmering, delicate wings that allow them to float and glide, but they cannot hover for long or carry heavy things.
- ♥ They love playing in open spaces and enjoy games that involve gentle movement, music, and teamwork.
- ♥ Their vision is a little different from others; they see best in soft, glowing light instead of bright or flashing lights.



About the Roll-a-roos:

- ♥ The Roll-a-roos move by rolling and spinning, but they can’t jump or fly. They need smooth paths to move around and sometimes need extra support to stop quickly.
- ♥ They love obstacle courses, building things with their strong arms, and games that involve strategy and problem-solving.
- ♥ Because they roll to move, they sometimes struggle with stairs or uneven ground.



Inclusive Playground Design

Materials



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

- ♥ Blank paper
- ♥ Markers, crayons or colored pencils.

Discussion



Students will work in small groups to design a new playground, where both Glimmerwings and Roll-a-roos can play together.

Ask the class:

- ♥ What kinds of playground features might be challenging for the Glimmerwings?
- ♥ What might be difficult for the Roll-a-roos?
- ♥ What features could we add to make sure everyone can enjoy the space?

Activity



Let's have a group design challenge. First let's break into pairs or small groups. Each small group will create their own design for the playground (and name it). Just like in the show you have no limits but your own imagination!

As you get started, please consider:

- ♥ Pathways & Movement: How can we create spaces that work for those who move on the ground and those who move through the air?
- ♥ Games & Play Areas: What kinds of activities could both groups enjoy together?
- ♥ Communication & Visibility: How can we make sure Glimmerwings and Roll-a-roos can see and understand each other easily?

Discussion



Once you have designed your playground, please explain to the class:

- ♥ How does your playground welcome both Glimmerwings and Roll-a-roos ?
- ♥ What changes did you make to ensure everyone can participate?
- ♥ How would you explain to a new visitor why this space is inclusive?