ENCOURAGING IDENTITY & INDEPENDENCE - ACTIVITY GUIDE 136





WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL ART

Materials you need:

- Photo of each child's face.
- Paper or cardboard sheets.
- Felt pens, glue, pencils
- Scissors

Setup for play:

- Give each child their printed photo (can be in black and white to save ink) and a sheet of paper or card.
- Ask them to glue their picture in the middle of the paper then draw or write a
 few things they think makes them special or unique. You might need to
 provide some support and suggestions here if they find this difficult.
- Laminate the pieces when done, punch a hole in each top corner, thread a little string through to hang then display or take home to share with family.

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What are they learning with this activity?

As the children make their special me artwork they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration.
- Recognise symbols and how things can represent other things
- Gain confidence.
- Listen to and follow directions
- Recognise their individual achievements and successes show pride in their work
- Show increasing independence and competence
- Express their ideas creatively to help make meaning
- Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people
- Explore the unique aspects of their identity through simple actions and play
- Develop a confident self-identity

Extending the play:

- Use another printed photo and laminate. Cut into sections –
 hair/eyes/nose/mouth and see if children can put themselves together as a
 puzzle.
- Change the activity to the prompt 'what I can do now" rather than the what makes me unique.





