

Self-Portrait

Description

How we see ourselves has a lot to do with what we believe in and what we project towards other people. Moreover, we are often unaware that our own image (the way we dress, the way we show ourselves, the way we interact) reveals many traits of our own culture. We also have a tendency to see ourselves in differentiating terms, without considering that despite our own differences with respect to other groups or majority groups, we share much more with the rest of our environment than what makes us different. Similarities are often a very solid bridge to understanding. With this activity, we propose a simple drawing and reflection project that allows the youngest children to value their characteristics and connect everything that unites them with other people and make visible through a simple exhibition the diversity of our school.

Objectives

- To reflect on our own values and identity.
- To promote the positive value of diversity.
- To draw and recognise the diverse image of our own school and environment.

Development of the Activity step-by-step

1. Hand out paper or cardboard and leave coloured paints for the pupils to use.
2. Explain the activity and give 5 minutes for each student to imagine and visualise themselves.
3. Each student will have 20 minutes to draw him/herself, trying to highlight what he/she thinks makes him/her most characteristic (they can draw their whole body or just their face).
4. At the end of the drawings, each student will present his/her work for 2 minutes and will comment on why he/she has highlighted some things or others.

5. At the end of each presentation, the rest of the students will share their vision of the student who has presented his/her drawing, confirming that this is how they see him/her or the opposite.
6. Once all the drawings have been presented, the students can hang their drawing in a visible place in the classroom or in the school (if the experience is carried out with the whole school).
7. The teacher will lead a brief discussion on how we see ourselves and how other people see us, by asking the following questions:
 - a. Are you surprised that your classmates don't see you the way you see yourself?
 - b. Are you surprised that your peers see themselves in a different way from the way you see them?
 - c. Why have you highlighted some characteristics and not others in your drawing?
 - d. What have you taken into account when making the drawing as similar to you as possible (skin colour, features, hair, eyes)?
 - e. After what your classmates have said, has your idea of yourself changed? Would you change anything in your drawing?