

Teaching Students to Believe in Themselves

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Woof! Woof! This lesson will focus on involving children in activities that encourage a sense of community through literature, language, and creative expression.

Clifford's Big Idea: Believe in Yourself

When children are given opportunities to try new things, they gain confidence and belief in themselves. Learning about one's own potential early in life can help motivate and inspire young children to become the best they can be!

The following activities nurture essential:

- language and literacy skills
- creative expression skills
- social and emotional skills
- fine motor skills

Materials

- *Clifford's Family* by Norman Bridwell
- Blank pages of 8.5"x11" paper, 8 pages per student
- 11"x17" construction paper in various colors, 1 sheet per student
- Digital camera or camera phone
- Access to photo printer
- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Markers for whiteboard or chart paper
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers for student use
- Glue
- Stapler

Set Up and Prepare

1. Before beginning the Day 2 project, use a digital camera or camera phone to photograph each student twice, once facing the camera and once facing away from the camera.
2. Print out the student photos for students to use on the front and back covers of the All About Me books.
3. Each All About Me book will contain the same eight interior pages with the headings listed below. Before beginning the Day 2 project, write out the headings on a whiteboard or piece of chart paper for students to copy. You could also print out classroom copies of the pages, keeping the pages blank except for the headings.

All About Me Page Headings

- This is Me!
- My Family
- Home, Sweet Home
- Favorite Pets
- Best Friends
- Eats and Treats That Make Me Smile
- Playtime is Fun!
- Read, Watch, Enjoy!

Directions

Day 1: City, Town, or Country?

Step 1: Read *Clifford's Family* by Norman Bridwell.

Step 2: Ask children to tell about the different kinds of communities illustrated throughout the story. What details in the story text and illustrations describe a city, town, or country setting?

Teaching Tip: It's important to give children the opportunity to retell stories, repeat instructions, and share key points that you wish for them to remember. By doing this, you will have a better understanding of how well they process auditory and visual information.

Step 3: Divide children into three groups of city, town, and country dwellers.

Step 4: Have groups take turns making sounds from objects (cars, trains, sirens, etc.) and animals most commonly found in each community for a fun guessing game.

Day 2: All About Me!

Step 1: Encourage students to cooperatively share about themselves, family and friends, home, pets, favorite foods, toys, pets, etc.

Step 2: Explain that your students will be expressing their own uniqueness through illustration by creating "All About Me!" books.

Step 3: Hand out eight sheets of blank 8.5"x11" paper (or your preprinted pages) to each student. If you are using blank sheets, ask the students to copy one of the following headings onto each sheet so they have eight differently titled pages.

- This is Me!
- My Family
- Home, Sweet Home
- Favorite Pets

- Best Friends
- Eats and Treats That Make Me Smile
- Playtime is Fun!
- Read, Watch, Enjoy!

Step 4: Encourage students to illustrate the page titles with crayons, colored pencils, or markers. For **This is Me!**, they should draw a self-portrait. They should draw toys, games, and other activities for **Playtime is Fun!** They should use **Read, Watch, Enjoy!** for favorite books, movies, and cartoons.

Step 5: When students are finished with their illustrations, have them each choose a sheet of 11"x17" colored construction paper.

Step 6: Help students wrap their pages in their sheet of 11"x17" construction paper. Staple the pages on the fold.

Step 7: Have students color or trace the book title "All About Me" onto the front cover of their books.

Step 8: Give each student the photographs you took of him or her prior to the activity. Have students glue the photos of them facing the camera on front covers of their books. They should glue the facing-away photos to the back covers of their books.

Step 9: Encourage students to add a fun "Good-bye for Now" or "The End" message to back cover.

Step 10: Have students sign and date books.

Optional: Create a special time for each child to share their work with their classmates.

Lesson Extensions

Discovering the uniqueness of local people and places can create great learning opportunities for everyone!

- Help children explore their own community by inviting a local historian to share stories and artifacts.
- Make a math connection by finding basic shapes like squares, triangles, rectangles, and circles in community structures, signs, and places of interest.

Clifford's Library

These books support Clifford's Big Ideas and reinforce valuable early literacy skills:

- [Clifford Takes a Trip](#) by Norman Bridwell
- [The Mixed-Up Chameleon](#) by Eric Carle

Also check out the [Clifford the Big Red Dog Book List](#).

- Part of Collection:

[Clifford the Big Red Dog](#)

- Subjects:

Early Reading, Early Social Skills, Pride and Self-Esteem, Understanding Self and Others, Social and Emotional Development

- Skills:

Reading

- Duration:

2 Days