



# HSCI Community Book Group: *It's OK to Be Different* By Todd Parr

## Using books to teach about Inclusion and differences

### **It's Okay to Be Different**

Todd Parr

*Little Brown and Company*

*It's okay to be small, medium, or large. It's okay to have a pet worm or wear glasses. In this book Todd Parr gives fun and playful examples of ways that people are different. It's a great read aloud story that children can help to read with their teacher.*



### Ideas for how to use this story in the classroom:

- Add to the book! Take pictures of kids doing silly things and then let them finish the sentence: "It's Okay to..." Help children sound out words or have them dictate their ideas while you write them down. Encourage children to illustrate their ideas to create this silly classroom book.
- Create "Alike and Different" thumbprints: Set out white 3" x 5" cards, an ink pad, a pen, and some magnifying glasses. Ask the children to make prints of their thumbs by pressing them on the ink pad and then on the cards. Label each print with the child's name. Let children use the magnifying glasses to look at how each thumbprint is different and alike. Point out that everyone has patterns on the skin of their fingers and each person's fingerprints are different from anyone else's.

### Ideas for how to use this story at home with your child:

- Use this story as an opportunity. Talk to your child about how everyone is different in some way and that everyone's family is different in some way. Think about the families that are close to you. Talk to your child about how some of these families are the same as yours and some are different. Talk about the differences in positive ways. Talk about the differences *and* the similarities at the same time.
- What else is alike and different? One activity may be to think about what other groups of things are the same and different? Ideas: Fish—they are all different, but they all live in water. Animals at the zoo—they are all different, but they all live together at the zoo. Skin color—We all have different shades of skin, but underneath our skin, we all have lungs, brains, muscles and bones.