

# COMMON

## Let's Connect – Tamariki Quiz Activity

### Information for Kaiako/Teachers

This activity nudges tamariki/children to explore what they have in common with each other, even those they may think are very different to them.

People often gravitate towards those who 'look' like us. We do this because we assume we will have more in common with others who look, or sound, like us. But this means we might miss out on opportunities for friendships, and it can make others feel like they don't belong or aren't welcome.

We think it is important to reach out across all sorts of differences – cultures, faiths, backgrounds, identities, favourite sports. While we may look different or do some things differently, there are always ways for us to connect. Finding a connection can make it easier for us to celebrate our differences too, because there is no one way to be, and difference makes our communities stronger.

Ultimately, we hope this activity helps make space in your classroom for conversations about how we don't all practice the same ways of being and doing – and that this is a good thing. These are important concepts for all tamariki to explore because we are used to the dominant culture in our society being reflected everywhere, which may be equated to mean these ways of being and doing are the 'right' or 'best' way. This can lead to ignorance of other cultures or feelings of superiority by tamariki from the dominant culture, while tamariki from minority cultures may feel invisible, excluded or ashamed. Representing, celebrating and reflecting diverse cultures and experiences, having open kōrero, and exploring our commonalities and differences can help.

### Tips for facilitating this activity

#### Preparation

1. Ensure you have one quiz sheet for each ākonga/student.
2. This activity works best with a central open space for tamariki to move around and space for tamariki to sit together in pairs.

#### Running the activity

1. Gather tamariki together and ensure each one of them has a quiz sheet and a pen.
2. Ask tamariki to write their ingoa/name on the sticker and stick it on their shirt where it can be seen by others.
3. Ask tamariki to read question one, choose their answer and stick the sticker of their choice on their shirt, next to their name sticker.
4. Tamariki now move around the room to find someone new or someone they don't usually sit with who has a matching answer on their sticker. They can introduce themselves and find a seat together. If tamariki cannot find someone else with a matching sticker – they can partner with anyone new (the point is to connect with someone they don't know very well). Reassure tamariki who are concerned about not finding a "matching pair" that this is fine, difference is something to be celebrated too!
5. Ask tamariki to introduce themselves and write their peer's name on their quiz sheet. Having the opportunity to say who we are when we introduce ourselves to each other is important. Help tamariki be mindful of things like pronunciation and spelling. Taking time to learn each other's names shows we are authentic about creating a space where everyone belongs. Help tamariki to practice names they are unfamiliar with, and lead by example by taking care with everyone's name.

6. Tamariki take turns asking and answering questions two to four together, filling in their peer's answers on their sheet.
7. When tamariki get to question four, they answer this question themselves, choosing their answer and sticking the sticker of their choice on their shirt, next to their other stickers.
8. They then repeat the activity as before, jumping up and moving around, finding someone new, again with a matching sticker (if possible), sitting and introducing themselves and taking turns with questions six – eight.
9. Once they have completed question eight with their peer ask them to jump up one more time and find someone new, who matches either of their stickers (favourite meal or favourite season) and complete the remaining questions together.
10. When tamariki have completed the activity, bring the group together and kōrero about how they found the activity. Prompt discussion using these tips:
  - **Favourite thing you had in common with your peer?** Prompt tamariki to think about how we often have more in common with people than we might have assumed, and we can often find things to connect about. Finding things in common is important because it can change the way we feel about someone new.
  - **One surprising thing you learnt today? Or favourite thing that was different between you and your peer?** Prompt tamariki to value difference – it is OK to acknowledge differences in the way we do things. Tamariki notice difference and often have questions about it. Open kōrero is the best way to assure tamariki of the value of difference. For example, question seven might have highlighted that we have different practices related to being inside, some of us remove our shoes and some do not. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' way – these are merely differences because of our family's personal preferences, where we are from, our culture and beliefs. All of these things help us to express ourselves and our culture, and make us the individuals we all are.
  - **One thing you'd like to learn more about?** Prompt tamariki to think about differences they are curious about, you might want to discuss and celebrate some cultural, ethnic and religious differences that tamariki in the classroom have. For example, question three might have shown that we celebrate different special occasions or holidays. Tamariki may feel comfortable sharing a story about how their family celebrate, or you might use this as a learning opportunity to link to a calendar of diverse events or other resources.
11. You may wish to collect the quiz sheets and use the information to highlight commonalities on a wall or in communications, e.g. "Did you know that 40% of us like making music, what about you?"

InCommon loves to celebrate Aotearoa New Zealand's incredible diversity. Our mahi is focused on helping to make our communities more inclusive places for all.

***He ira tangata. He ira rongomaiwhiti tāu***  
*(Our differences make us unique, and we all have things in common).*

The InCommon Tamariki Activity was developed by InCommon alongside a group of year 7 and 8 tamariki from Te Kura o Ōpāwaho/Opawa School in Ōtautahi Christchurch, with funding from the Mental Health Foundation in support of the Pink Shirt Day kaupapa.