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What's in common? 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. Print one quiz sheet for each ākonga/student.
2. Prepare a technique for pairing up tamariki with someone they don't usually sit with or seem to know very well. Or this could be random, such as by sticking a dot sticker on half of the quiz sheets and asking tamariki to partner up with someone who also has a sticker or who doesn't.
3. The space needs to accommodate all tamariki seated together in pairs.

Running the activity

1. Ensure each ākonga has a quiz sheet and a pen.
2. Pair tamariki up with someone new, ask them to find a seat together somewhere and read the top part of their sheet.
3. Ask tamariki to introduce themselves and write their partner'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.
4. Tamariki take turns asking and answering each question, filling in their peer's answers on their sheet.
5. To finish each ākonga fills in the wrap up section at the bottom of the quiz sheet themselves and shares their answers with their peer.

6. When tamariki have completed their quiz sheets you can bring the group together as one or several smaller groups to have a kōrero about how they found the quiz 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 one and six might have shown that food is a good place to start to explore our differences – what we eat, how we eat, even when we eat. There is no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ way – these are merely differences because of our personal preferences, dietary restrictions, where we are from, our culture and beliefs. All of these things help us to celebrate our cultures, where we are from and to 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. Tamariki may feel comfortable to share a story or experience, or you might use this as a learning opportunity to link to other resources or activities.
7. You may wish to collect the quiz sheets and choose a couple of questions, such as favourite takeaways, sports/games or movie genre to plan an event, such as a shared lunch or activity. You could highlight commonalities on a wall or in communications, e.g. “Did you know that 40% of us like scary movies, 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.



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