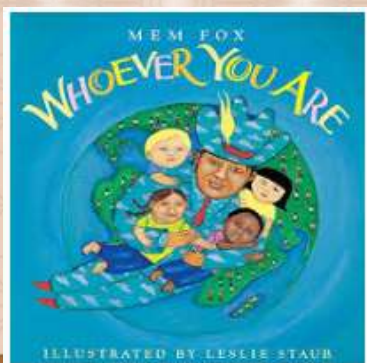


New York State  
**BOOK  
NOOKs**



# Whoever You Are

Children all over the world dress differently, live differently, and look differently, but they all feel love, joy, pain, and hurt the same way. This book illustrates the beautiful commonality among all people throughout the entire world; wherever they are and whoever they are.

**Title:** Whoever You Are

**Author:** Mem Fox

**Illustrator:** Leslie Staub

**Publisher:** Harcourt, Inc.

**Date published:** 1997

## Social and emotional Pyramid Model skills infants and toddlers can learn through this book:

Sense of belonging, emotions awareness

## Social and emotional words this book can emphasize:

Smile, frown, laugh, hurt, cry, joy, love, pain, heart, play

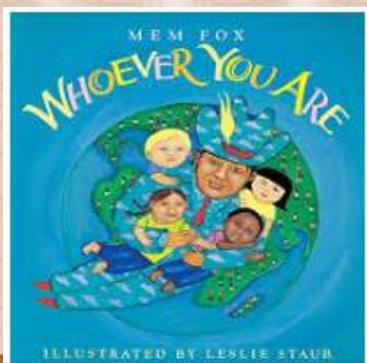
## Pyramid Model Activities to do while reading the book that will help promote social and emotional development:

- Have children point to the people in the book. Encourage them to point to the happy girl or crying boy. Discuss why the child may be feeling that way and what the child could do to feel better. With the children who are reading the book, discuss about what makes them feel better when they are crying
- Helping children recognize feelings in others is an integral step in their emerging sense of relating to others that will help them build and maintain relationships and develop empathy skills.
- Notice the differences among all the children from around the world. Point out all the different homes, landscape, clothing, pets, food, language, hair and skin color, etc.
- Emphasize the things that are the same among all people; hearts, smiles, laughter, tears, hurt, pain, love, etc.

## Fun for Everyone! Activities to promote social and emotional development throughout the day:

- After reading, invite children to think about what makes them different from everyone else and what makes them the same. Divide a piece of chart paper into two sections labeled "different/same". Record children's answers. Be sensitive and affirming to children's answers. If children do not use vocabulary words from book, suggest and add them yourself.
- In the art area, provide paints and brushes to create pictures depicting what makes the children special. Record their answers and display with finished work. Point out the frames around the pictures in the books and explain that special pictures can be put into a frame. Provide frames for children's art or assist them in creating a frame, utilizing construction paper or other materials.
- During large group, do a picture walk through the book while looking for the man in the blue cloud suit. Make tally marks on a whiteboard or chart paper as the children find him. When finished, count each mark and write the numeral.
- Ask children to create hearts with their names to string together like the last page in the book. Allow children to add hearts to represent their friends and family. Discuss the idea that while we are all different, our hearts and the way we feel love are the same.

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- Print and display pictures of different types of homes in the block area. Encourage children to recreate what they see. Talk about size, shape, color, similarities and differences etc.
- Ask children to draw or bring in pictures of their own homes to add to the display in the block area. Talk about the characteristics of each home and compare/contrast the characteristics.
- Talk with children about times that they have been hurt. Perhaps they remember skinning their knee like the child in the story. Ask them to share what it feels like and remind them everyone feels pain. Provide band-aids in the dramatic play center so children can practice applying them and providing comfort to dolls and stuffed animals.
- Talk with children about times they have felt happy or joyful and record them on chart paper. Find as many ways to describe joy as they can and record them as well. Make it a point to use the vocabulary from the book as often as you can during conversation. Do the same with the other emotion words.
- Create books or photo albums that focus on the children in the care setting. Have them point out themselves in the pictures. Talk about what they are doing in the pictures, how they may be feeling and how they look when they were feeling that way. Supporting children in their evolving sense of self will help them become aware of their own preferences and characteristics of others. This will assist them in emotional control and social interactions.

*We're Different, We're the Same*  
<https://youtu.be/hUrb4SZnxg>



*I Am Somebody*  
<https://youtu.be/gS9xOczDEZY>

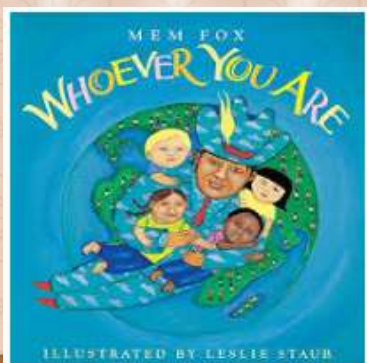


## Involving Families

- Set up a world map that is visible. Invite families to post their photos where their ancestors are from on the "Ancestry Map". Families can post photos of the region where they descended from and post photos or memorabilia from their homes, food, apparel; whatever they want to share to represent their heritage.
- Invite families to come talk about their heritage, traditions, way of life for their ancestors and their family today.
- Share videos of people engage in everyday activities around the world. The children may express curiosities to explore around the world such as playgrounds, schools, supermarkets, medical offices, or public transportation.



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## Resources for Families

For a read-aloud of *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox, click the video below or use this link:  
<https://youtu.be/W8BtVuY02VU>



*PBS KIDS Talk About: Differences and Similarities*  
<https://youtu.be/cn06KZeQ43k>



Talk with your child about similarities and differences from everyone else. Explain that all people feel emotions like hurt, love, joy, and pain.

Use [the Feelings Faces Cards](#) found at the link below to help your child understand emotions.

[https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/FeelingFaces\\_cards\\_EN-SP.pdf](https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/FeelingFaces_cards_EN-SP.pdf)

## Related books

*We're Different, We're the Same*  
by Sesame Street

*Same, Same But Different*  
by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

*I'm Like You, You're Like Me,*  
by Cindy Gainer

*Love Makes a Family*  
by Sophie Beer

*Home* by Carson Ellis

