

What's up with Nick?

Lesson

Introduction

Today we're going to learn about autism. *What's up with Nick?* is a fold out book about a class that has a new boy named Nick. Nick has autism. The book will teach us what autism is all about. If you already know someone with autism, or someone with autism comes to our class this year you will know what it is and how to be a better friend to them.

Cover

Hold up the cover to the class. Read the title and paragraph.

Ask – What do you think she means by different? Let a few kids answer. You don't need to let them know if they are wrong or right.

Page 1

Read
Ask

Question 1: What are some things different about Nick?

Answer 1: Sometimes he makes loud noises and gets out of his seat, another lady helps in the class, and he gets to take more breaks.

Question 2: Are we all the same? Do some of us get to do different things in class?

Answer 2: Yes. Some kids take longer to do things or need to move around more.

Page 2

Read
Ask

Question 1: What is autism?

Answer 1: It is a difference in someone's brain that makes him understand things differently.

Question 2: Nick learns things in a different way. Do we all learn in the same way, or sometimes different ways?

Answer 2: Different ways.

Question 3: Can you catch autism?

Answer 3: No.



Page 3

Read
Ask

Question 1: Are all kids with autism the same?

Answer 1: No.

Question 2: What are some things you might see someone with autism do?

Answer 2: They might not look you in the eyes, maybe not talk much, flap their arms, or rock back and forth.

Question 3: What are some things you might do to make yourself comfortable?

Answer 3: Examples: Stretch or crack your knuckles.

Page 4

Read
Ask

Question 1: What are some other things someone with autism might do?

Answer 1: Talk a lot, tell you about their favorite thing, be picky about their toys, maybe dance, draw, make art projects, play.

Question 2: What are some things you like to do?

Answer 2: Answers depend on your class.

Page 5

Read
Ask

Question 1: Is autism scary?

Answer 1: No.

Question 2: Is someone with autism a person just like me or you?

Answer 2: Yes.

Page 6

Read
Ask

Question 1: What are some things you like to change around you to help you to focus?

Answer 1: Examples: Asking someone to be quiet while you're studying or taking off your sweater if you feel hot.

Page 7

Read
Ask

Question 1: Is it ok for some people to need more help than others?

Answer 1: Yes, everyone is different.

Question 2: Can we be friends with someone with autism?

Answer 2: Yes.

Conclusion

Tell your class to look at the chart. Take turns reading each square and ask your class if they know people who do those things.

Autism isn't something to be scared of. Everyone is different and people with autism are just like everyone else.



Organization for Autism Research

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How to Use *What's up with Nick?*

Thank you for talking to your class about autism! This presentation kit will help you teach the other kids in your class about autism. Read this page, the booklet, and the lesson before you start.

Summary

What's up with Nick? is a fold out book about a class that has a new boy named Nick. The story is told through the eyes of one of his classmates. Nick has autism, so he seems different at first. The kid telling the story talks about how as they got to know Nick and learned about autism, Nick became part of the class and a friend.

Presentation Kit

The *What's up with Nick?* presentation kit includes:

- Lesson plan
- 1 Kids with autism might... poster
- 20 copies of *What's up with Nick?*

Presentation Tips

- Pass out the guides to your class.
- You can have different kids in your class read the pages out loud, or you can let the class read each page by themselves.
- After reading each page, ask the questions in the discussion guide and let your classmates ask any questions.
- After your presentation, ask you class to look at the poster and talk about how each action might be something a person without autism might also do.

Thank you for helping your class learn about autism. If you or your classmates have any other questions please send an email to info@researchautism.org.

