

This lesson plan will help students in years 2-6 to build their understanding of the different strengths and support needs of their classmates.

## Lesson Plan – Understanding Differences

Explore the concepts of same and different, uniqueness and individual strengths, and support needs with your class to get students thinking about how everyone is unique, and that differences are a good thing.

From here, students can be prompted to discuss how we all might have different strengths and different things we need help with. For example, students might enjoy talking about who is the fastest runner or the neatest at handwriting.

Following this, invite students to share if they need help with anything – e.g. some students may use glasses to help them see better and some may need help to remember the rules of four square.

This open sharing is a good way to boost acceptance and inclusion of students with different needs. The *Detective Worksheet* activity below can help the students find out more about their classmates.

### Worksheet

Instruct students to separate into partners and complete the *Detective Worksheet* on page 2 of this resource.

### Discuss

Engage the class in a discussion of their findings from the worksheet to develop understanding and acceptance of what makes each person unique. This exercise aims to stimulate critical thinking about the similarities and differences between individuals (e.g. personal characteristics, likes, dislikes, interests and so on).

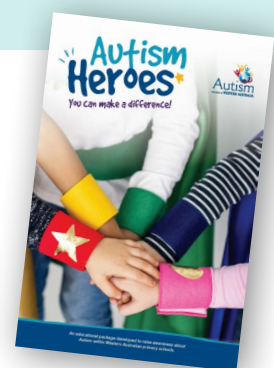
Key questions for your students to consider:

- What did you have in common with your partner?
- What is different between each of you?
- What do you like or appreciate about your partner's differences?
- How are your strengths and challenges the same or different to those of your partner?
- Why is it important that everyone is unique?
- What can we all learn from each other?

### Autism Heroes

This resource has been collated from our Autism Heroes education publication. Autism Heroes contains lesson plans, a video and worksheets

Visit the website for more information on the Autism Heroes Resource Pack <https://autismheroes.autism.org.au/>



# Detective Work

Detectives are good at searching for answers. Choose a classmate to answer these questions below.



Name:

What do they like?



What are they good at?



What do they not like?



Who is in their family?



Who are they friends with?



What do they want to learn?

