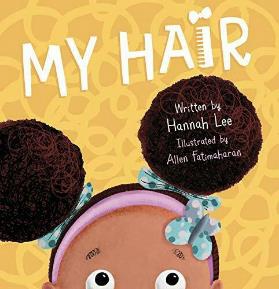
**My Hair RE Ideas**

This lesson focuses on the idea that we are all unique and we are all special.

These ideas are aimed at children in Year 2, but can be adapted for older or younger pupils. They are based on the book ‘My Hair’ by Hannah Lee, and link to the class reflection and art ideas in the Diocesan ‘All Are Welcome’ Project. It’s helpful to have a copy of the book, but you can also watch the story being read [here.](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=my+hair+hannah+Lee+you+tube&docid=607998843402916763&mid=607A95D5C33BF0980DFA607A95D5C33BF0980DFA&view=detail&FORM=VIRE) **(Slide 1)**

There are more ideas than you will be able to use, so select the activities that you think will work best with your class, but try to include something from each section. It is better to do one or two things well, than try to cover too much (less is more!)

**Communicate and Apply – Everyone is Different.**

Start by playing the fruit salad game. Everyone sits in a circle with one child in the middle. Read out statements and if the description applies to them, then the children stand up and swap places, while the child in the middles tries to get into one of the empty seats. If you haven’t played this before, then it’s important to establish some ground rules, such as walk sensibly, look where you’re going, move safely. (It’s good to get the children to come up with the rules and to express them in positive terms, i.e. ‘walk’ rather than ‘don’t run.’)

Possible statements could include:

Stand up if you had toast for breakfast; if you’re vegetarian; if you have a pet rabbit; if you can swim.

Establish that we’re all different. We all like different things, we look different, our families are different etc

Can the children think of any things that we all have in common?

**Inquire and Contextualise – We’re made in God’s Image.**

**Slide 2** Read the passage in Genesis 1 - 2 about God making Adam and Eve. You could use the Lion Storyteller Bible (In The Beginning page 8) or the Desmond Tutu Children’s Storybook Bible (Chapter 2 Adam and Eve). Wonderful Earth by Nick Butterworth and Nick Inkpen is also a lovely version of the creation story. Ask the children to listen carefully to what it says about the first people.

Some Christians believe that God literally made the first man and woman, others would say that this is a story, but it contains the important truth that we’re all special and that there’s something of God in each one of us. This isn’t necessarily the place for a debate about Creation, unless the children bring it up and are keen to discuss it. It’s good for them to understand that different Christians have different ideas about these verses, but the main point is that everyone is special and that nobody is here by mistake.

Christians believe that God made us all. We’re all unique, but we all have something of God in us. They call this being made in God’s image. This doesn’t mean that we look like God, but that we all have some of his qualities, like being kind, or generous, or creative, or good at encouraging others.

**Slide 3** You might like to play this song, [Big Family of God,](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs) by Nick and Becky Drake. Because this is an RE lesson – rather than collective worship – it would be good to explain to the children that the song was written by Christians and that not everyone would agree with its message. Ask them what they think the message of the song is and whether they agree with the idea that we’re all different, but we’re all special.

**Evaluate – We are God’s Masterpiece**

**Slide 3** Ask if the children know what a masterpiece is. What kind of picture would they put in this frame? A landscape? A portrait? Something abstract? Again, we all have different ideas because we’re all different.

**Slide 4** What do they think of this painting? Would they hang it up in their house? Would it make a difference if it was painted by someone special? Reveal that this painting was done by a rescued chimpanzee – does that change how they feel about the picture? (This particular chimpanzee is called Joe, he was rescued from an animal testing laboratory and is now being looked after at Chimp Haven in Louisiana. USA. *Use your judgement about how much of this information to share with your class.*

**Slide 5** Christians believe that we are God’s masterpiece, and that he created each one of us specially. What do the class think of this idea? Do they think that they’re special? Do they think that other people are special?

Ask everyone to write their name at the bottom of a sheet of paper and then pass it to the person next to them. Ask the children to write a positive comment at the top of the sheet about the person whose name is on the page, then fold it over and pass it to the next person. Continue to write positive comment, fold the top down and pass the paper round the class. When everyone has written something (or when you judge the time is right) return the sheets to their owners and ask the children to read the comments the rest of the class have written. Encourage them to keep the sheets somewhere safe and to read them again if they’re ever tempted to think negative thoughts about themselves.

*Depending on your class, you might like to discuss with them the kind of comments that would be suitable. E.g. why would ‘she has a nice smile’ be better than ‘she has nice shoes’?*

Alternatively: use the circle time game ‘Heads or Tails.’ Ask everyone to stand up and put their hands either on their head or on their tail (bottom). Toss a coin and everyone who chose the wrong way sits down. Repeat this until only one child is left standing, then ask the other children to make positive comments about that child and what makes them special. (“Ruby is special because….”)

You could repeat this with other children at different times during the week.

**Follow up books**

You may like to read one or more of these books with your class to explore the idea of everyone being different, but everyone being special.

* Hair Love, Matthew Cherry
* Elmer, David McKee
* Red Rockets and Rainbow Jelly, Nick Sharratt & Sue Heap
* Giraffes Can’t Dance, Giles Andrae
* The Colours of Us, Karen Katz

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