

Inclusive Education

Core Word Focus: DIFFERENT

Core words are the powerful, flexible words we use every day for most of our communication. A core word approach gives the AAC learner focused practice with these important words that will help them communicate effectively in many different situations for many different reasons. Our next core word focus is *different*. While I do not usually recommend teaching opposites together, this is an exception. *Go ahead and draw attention to different and same this week.*

Novelty can be fun sometimes, but kids usually have a strong preference for sameness. Kids notice differences in routines, expectations, possessions, and differences in appearances. Predictability gives comfort and reassurance; change can cause confusion and reluctance. As with anything we are processing emotionally and intellectually, putting words to the experience helps. When we have conversations about a surprise or discomfort with a difference we experience, there is an acknowledgement of an impact, and that helps.

Let's focus on same and **different** for the purpose of building language around resilience in the face of change. Build routines and then insert small differences so there is the opportunity to talk about this concept. Play dress-up with dolls with the intention of illustrating sameness and difference.

Examples:

Oooh that's **different**.
I have a **different** idea.
I have a **different** snack.

I don't like **different**.
Mine is **different** than yours.
Can I have a **different** one?

Why is it **different** today?
Let's do it a **different** way.
What's **different**?

Books:

It's OK to Be **Different**
Different is Good
We're **Different** We're the Same

What's **Different**
A **Different** Pond
Same, Same but Different

I Talk in **Different** Ways
The Odd One Out (Animals)
Different? Same!!

Activities:

Pairs and sets of items

Sorting clothing

Using the Expanding Expressions
Tool (EET)

What's-different activities

Dishes and foods to be put away after
laundry

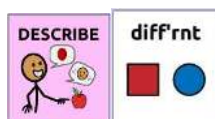
Washing up and grocery shopping

Categorization activities

Comparing today's clothing with friends

Talking about and normalizing the
range of feelings

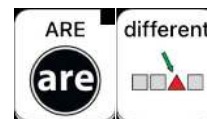
TOUCH CHAT



LAMP



SFY



BOOK CREATOR RESOURCES

Links to Online Resources



Simple LAMP Book



Sentence Examples for LAMP users:

What is different



Can I have a different one



I have a different idea



I do not like different



Let's do it different

