

## 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, **differences** in expectations, **differences** in 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:

Ooooh 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

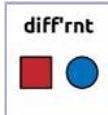
Washing up and grocery shopping

Categorization activities

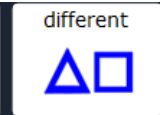
Comparing today's clothing with friends

Talking about and normalizing the  
range of feelings

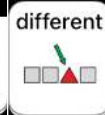
## TOUCH CHAT



## LAMP



## SFY

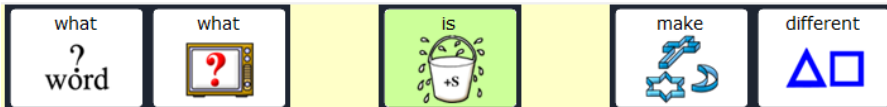


## BOOK CREATOR RESOURCES:



## Different Sentence Strips

What is different



Can I have a different one



I have a different idea



I do not like different



Let's do it different

