We Are All Special!

**Lesson Timeframe**
25-30 mins

**Materials**
- Picture Frame template (see below)
- Inclusiveness poster (optional)

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**Share**
Define inclusiveness: INCLUSIVENESS IS INCLUDING OTHERS, INVITING THEM IN, AND WELCOMING THEM WITH OPEN ARMS. (Show the Inclusiveness poster if desired.) Discuss that inclusiveness really just means we include others! We are all special and unique. Each of us has special characteristics that are not like anyone else. We should aim to celebrate each person's unique qualities! Brainstorm different talents you have seen in others here in our program. Aim for 3-5 responses from varying ages.

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**Inspire**
Emphasize the importance of respecting others for their unique qualities. No two people are exactly alike in how they look, act, feel. Even twins have their own special talents! We are each our own special individual and it is important that we value each other because of that. When we practice inclusiveness we are inviting others in with open arms, regardless of how they look, act, dress, speak, etc.

Today we will create our own special picture frames to highlight our special talents and unique qualities. Everyone is welcome in our program! Let's celebrate our talents and practice inclusiveness by ensuring everyone feels welcome here.

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**Empower**
Pass out a picture frame page to each student (see below for a template). Have each student draw a picture of themselves and/or one of their special talents. Encourage them to use colors and images that truly represent their uniqueness. There are no right or wrong images or words as long as they are kind and respectful. Have each student present their picture and share at least one special quality and/or talent they included.

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**Reflect**
If space allows, hang up all of the picture frames in one cohesive unit (like a “Special Wall”). Guide a conversation around INCLUSIVENESS.

- What is one unique quality or talent you learned about someone today?
- How can you include others when they don't share your interests?
- How might someone feel if you leave them out?
- How can you practice inclusiveness during your time here?

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