Self-Concept Lesson Plan: "All About Me!"

Ages: Birth to Five

@ Learning Objectives

By the end of this activity, children will:

- Begin to recognize themselves as unique individuals.
- Identify personal strengths and things they are learning to do.
- Express pride in their abilities and individuality.
- Explore and communicate feelings in healthy, age-appropriate ways.

Materials

- Child-safe mirrors
- Crayons, markers, paper, and construction paper
- Photos or picture cards of people doing various activities
- Dress-up items (scarves, hats, sunglasses, etc.)
- Magazines for collages (optional for older children)
- Self-esteem worksheets, "I Am" journals, or coloring pages
- Glue sticks, safety scissors (for preschoolers)

Activity Steps

1. Let's Talk About You!

- Begin with simple prompts:
 - Infants/Toddlers: "That's your smile!" or "Can you find your nose?"
 - Preschoolers: "What are you really good at?" or "What's something you're still learning?"

2. Self-Recognition Play

- Use mirrors with infants and toddlers to explore features, emotions, and body parts.
- o Encourage older children to role-play or describe how they feel.

3. Creative Exploration

- o Infants: Use scarves, hats, or accessories for mirror play.
- Toddlers: Create simple self-portraits with crayons.
- Preschoolers: Draw detailed self-portraits or make "Me Collages" with magazines and labels like "Things I'm Great At" and "Things I'm Learning."

4. Strengths & Feelings Connection

- Show children images of people doing activities. Ask:
 - "Who is doing something you like to do?"
 - "Which picture reminds you of YOU?"
- o Reinforce with positive phrases: "You're a good helper!" or "That was kind."

5. Celebrate & Reflect

- o End with group sharing or one-on-one reflection.
- Praise specifically: "You waited your turn so patiently—what a great friend!"

Assessment – What to Look For

- Does the child show recognition of themselves in a mirror or drawing?
- Can they name (or point to) one strength or interest?
- Do they express pride in their abilities?
- Are they beginning to use words, gestures, or visuals to show feelings?

Adaptations by Age & Skill Level

Infants (Birth–12 months):

- Focus on mirror play and body awareness.
- Use gentle narration and positive facial expressions.

• Toddlers (1-3 years):

- Introduce dress-up, simple drawing, and pointing to strengths.
- Offer choices (e.g., "Do you like running or building blocks better?").

Preschoolers (3–5 years):

- Encourage writing or storytelling about strengths.
- Add complexity with goal-setting prompts ("What would you like to get better at?").
- Use small group "Feelings & Friendship" talks.

Children Needing Extra Support:

- o Provide emotion cards, visuals, or one-on-one coaching.
- Allow drawing instead of verbalizing.

• Children Ready for a Challenge:

- Engage them in teaching peers a skill or leading part of the reflection.
- o Start self-esteem journals or more complex collages.

****** Extension Activities

- "I Am" Journals: Children draw/write about something they're proud of.
- Self-Esteem Bingo: Match strengths and actions.
- Scavenger Hunt: Find objects that represent talents (e.g., a block for building).
- Role-Play & Puppet Play: Practice empathy and friendship skills.
- Class Sharing Circle: Share something that makes each child special.

 ← This blended lesson plan provides flexibility for any age group while ensuring that all children—whether infants discovering their reflection or preschoolers describing their strengths—develop a positive, confident sense of self.