**My friend and I are different**

**Aims of the lesson:**

Encourage students to talk about how tolerant and willing they are to accept peers who are different in appearance, skills, abilities or anything else than the majority of population.

Recognize that people are different and that it is important to be tolerant in order tolive in peace and harmony with others.

Learn to tolerate respect, acceptance and appreciation of diversity in the world which surrounds us.

Explain the meaning of the words prejudice and discrimination.

Encourage students to share tolerance and equality, recognize and eliminate stereotypes and prejudices.

Identify classroom rules to promote tolerance in schools.

You can do this workshop after reading a literary text about intolerant behavior or after a media culture where we looked at a movie with such a theme.

I show students a several photos (PowerPoint presentation) of their peers from different parts of the world. Photos should show children of different genders, races, dress, social state, children with special needs ... (they should all be of the same age). The students can make presentation before this lesson for homework.

The conversation: What is in the photos? What do all children have in common and how are they different?

Students will choose:

- A photo of a child who would like to meet and explain their choices

- A photo of a child with whom they think they cannot make the communication and explain why.

Based on their choice I explain what **prejudice** and **discrimination** are. I explain that prejudices is a prejudgment of a particular person or group without having met her/him more closely and discrimination is an unequal treatment of a person or a group of people because of their characteristics.

In the second part of the workshop, I give students the job to describe their friend and describe what they have in common with them and what they are different about. I can also use Venn's diagram.

After that, students present their work, pointing out their similarities and differences and discussing what helped them overcome differences and become friends. We are talking about how they would like others to behave towards them in respect to their differences and whether they are tolerant towards others.

At the end of the lesson, groups (3-4) will prepare a paper to write a rule to encourage tolerant behavior and sign up. We will exhibit the rules on a visible place in the classroom.