



# Conversation Menu

## HELPING YOUR CHILD TO APPRECIATE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

### APPETISER

An important step towards building empathy is learning to acknowledge that people hold many different points of view. As young people grow and explore the world, they come into contact with a range of diverse perspectives in the new people they meet. We can help them to manage the internal conflicts they may encounter as they begin to realise that their values are not necessarily the same as others in their world.

### ENTREE

To help your child understand that people have different points of view, you can start by supporting them to identify their own perspectives.

Ask your child how they feel about common points of difference in our community, and then model understanding and empathy by asking them to consider why others might feel differently.

#### Suggested questions to open discussion with your family:

**How do you feel about eating meat?**

What other perspectives or points of view exist?

Who might have these views?

Why do you think these people hold these views?

**How do you feel about climate change?**

What other perspectives or points of view exist?

Who might have these views?

Why do you think these people hold these views?

**How do you feel about lunchtime detentions?**

What other perspectives or points of view exist?

Who might have these views?

Why do you think these people hold these views?

## MAIN

Appreciating diversity is not just an important social capability, but is also enshrined in Australian law, and Department of Education policy. Helping your child understand that they can hold their own point of view while also meeting public expectations around inclusion and fairness sets them up for future success in the range of public forums in which they will need to interact.

### Definitions:

A personal attribute is a personal characteristic that is protected by State or Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation. This legislation protects individuals from both direct and indirect discrimination.

Direct discrimination refers to acts that treat a person unfavourably because of a protected attribute.

Indirect discrimination refers to imposing an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that disadvantages a person or group of people with a protected attribute.

Protected attributes include: race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious belief or activity, political belief or activity, age, intersex status, physical features, pregnancy, carer and parental status, breastfeeding, marital or relationship status, lawful sexual activity, employment activity, industrial activity, expunged homosexual conviction or personal association with anyone who is identified with reference to any protected attribute.

(Doncaster Secondary College Inclusion and Diversity Policy)

Look at the list of protected attributes with your family and invite them to share on what direct or indirect discrimination might look like for some of these attributes.

As a family, talk about the perspectives that might lead to discrimination and the perspectives that are likely to lead to inclusion.

## DESSERT

The poet Maya Angelou once wrote, 'We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike.'

It's true that many of us hold different perspectives and act in different ways, but ultimately we are all human and share many characteristics. The following list outlines some possible similarities that all, or at least many of us, share:

- We all have a story
- We are all afraid sometimes
- We are all stuck in our own skin
- We are all valuable
- We are all imperfect

Torrence, [5 ways we are all alike](#) (July 29th, 2017)

Ask your child if they think these things are true for all, or most, people. See if you can work together to identify other core features that we share as people.

## LEFTOVERS

Check out these helpful resources for more information about how to value and appreciate the perspectives of others.

### Resources:

#### Victorian Curriculum Personal and Social Capabilities

<https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/personal-and-social-capability/introduction/rationale-and-aims>

#### Here's why different perspectives lead to the best ideas by Ronna Detrick

<https://fierceinc.com/blog/different-perspectives-lead-to-the-best-ideas-here-s-why/>

#### How to show respect to people from other cultures

<https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/how-to-show-respect-towards-people-from-other-cultures>



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