

This book features an affirming and powerful message that lets children know that they are important and valued.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES	INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES	
RELATE 	Children will:	Teachers will:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recognize self as unique ◆ Express confidence and positive feelings about self ◆ Develop sense of belonging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promote Autonomy

TEACHING TIP

Children’s sense of self (what they think matters about them) is heavily influenced by how the adults they value respond to them. So, it’s important that adults accept children for who they are by listening, paying attention, and honoring their thoughts and ideas. Adults help children develop a positive sense of self when they let children know that they matter. Remind children that they don’t have to be the fastest or best, and instead reinforce that they are important and special just because of who and how they are.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Today we’re going to read a book called *You Matter*. What the title means, and what we’ll read in the book, is that you are very important! People care about you, and you are special for being you!”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to comment or ask about the message in the book.
- ◆ Acknowledge and affirm that the children are important and valued.

Promote Child Autonomy (value their identity, ideas, interests, and opinions) 		
<p>Read: “Those that swim with the tide and those that don’t. The first to go and the last. You matter.”</p> <p>Comment: “We matter! We matter because we are important to others and others are important to us. Everyone matters to someone.”</p> <p>Ask: “Who is someone that matters to you?”</p> <p>Acknowledge: “Thank you for sharing. I hear it’s important to you.”</p>	<p>Read: “Sometimes someone you love says good-bye.”</p> <p>Comment: “Look at the boy (<i>point, then turn to previous page</i>). What is the astronaut holding (<i>point</i>)?”</p> <p>Ask: “Do they matter to one another even though they’re apart? How do you know?”</p> <p>Acknowledge: “Yes! People matter to one another.”</p>	<p>Read: “Sometimes you feel lost and alone. You matter.”</p> <p>Comment: “Look at the dog (<i>point</i>). He looks lost (<i>point to children near the words</i>).”</p> <p>Ask: “Who do you think that the dog matters to? Who do you think you’re important to?”</p> <p>Acknowledge: “Yes! You matter! You are so important to...”</p>

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “YOU matter! You’re important (*point*)! You’re important (*point*)! You’re important (*point*)! You ALL are important (*point to all*). Remember that. And if you forget, come to me. I will tell you how important you are and how much you mean to me, your friends, and family.”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ What you say and do, and how you say and do it influences how children feel about themselves. Every day, let children know that their thoughts and ideas are valued and appreciated. Give children a voice in their work and play and listen to that voice. Follow their lead, show your interest, offer time and patience, and share your enjoyment in being able to spend time with them.