

The Kids on the Block
New Jersey Inc.



The Kids on the Block New Jersey, Inc.

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MULTICULTURALISM

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

This program was developed to introduce children to the concept of culture and how it affects our individual lives and the collective society. Although the characters address specific situations in their own lives and cultures, the main focus is not on the foreign and unique, but rather on how children can find common ground in their similarities. This curriculum is an educational tool designed to:

- ◆explain/define culture
- ◆examine how a person might find examples of culture in his or her own life
- ◆explore some of the challenges which may arise when children of different cultures struggle to assimilate into the “majority” culture
- ◆promote cultural awareness and sensitivity and learn about holidays

SCRIPT SUMMARIES:

Where’s the Culture?

Joanne and some of her friends from Woodburn Jr. High School are helping groups of lower grade students come up with presentations for Culture Week. Believing that she has “no culture,” Joanne is unsure how to help her group. She asks her friends about their presentations. With the help of Nam and Valerie, Joanne begins to understand that everyone has a culture and that it can come from many different aspects of life.

New Names

Nam is upset that everyone mispronounces his name so he decides to change it. When Valerie presses Nam for a reason, Nam shares his frustration at feeling he must act like “two different people,” Vietnamese with his family and American with his friends. **This script is followed by a question and answer session where the children are encouraged to ask the puppet characters questions.**

Holidays: More Than Presents

Joanne has made holiday greeting cards for the P.T.A. fundraiser. Believing that everyone celebrates the holidays her cards represent, Joanne expects to be overwhelmed with orders. With the help of Valerie and Nam, Joanne learns that, just like there are many different types of people, there are many different types of holidays.