**Diversity of any kind is a wealth**

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***Theme****: Being respectful and careful of others is always worth it.*

***Foreword for storyteller:*** *The following story is a famous tale written by Aesop. As many in stories, its purpose is to teach life values using animals. Aesop didn’t think on a “Special Needs” application in creating this story, but, in some way, it can be used to let children (also adults) understand that, depending on the situation, everyone can at times feel “different” or “disabled” if the environmental/ambient conditions are not appropriate and respectful of everyone. This is the spirit you have to keep in mind as you tell the story and debrief afterwards.*

***On-screen illustrations:***

 

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**THE FOX AND THE STORK**(A well-known Aesop animals’ tale)

One day, the Fox thought of a plan to amuse himself at the expense of the Stork, at whose odd appearance he was always laughing.

“You must come and dine with me today,” he said to the Stork, smiling to himself at the trick he was going to play. The Stork gladly accepted the invitation and arrived in good time and with a very good appetite.

For dinner, the Fox served soup. But it was set out in a very shallow dish, and all the Stork could do was to wet the very tip of his bill in it. Not a drop of soup could he get. But the Fox lapped it up easily and, to increase the disappointment of the Stork, made a great display of enjoyment.

The hungry Stork was much displeased at the trick, but he was a calm, even-tempered fellow and saw no good in being offended or getting angry. Instead, not long afterward, he invited the Fox to dine with him in turn. The Fox arrived promptly at the time that had been set, and the Stork served a fish dinner that had a very appetizing smell. But it was served in a tall jar with a very narrow neck. The Stork could easily get at the food with his long bill, but all the Fox could do was to lick the outside of the jar, sniffing at the delicious aroma from the inside the jar.

When the Fox became angry and lost his temper, the Stork said calmly: “Then don’t play tricks on your neighbours, unless you can stand the same treatment yourself.”

The moral drawn is that the “golden rule” of conduct is that we treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves, as it’s written in Matthew 7:12: *“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.”*

***Debrief:****1. How could the stork have done differently to teach the fox a better lesson about respect of difference or diversity?*

*2. What would* you *do if you were in a similar situation? (Being bullied or somebody is amusing themself at your expense)*

*3. How would you appreciate and enrich your friend’s diversity (culture, religion, ethnicity, social status, and diverse mental or physical abilities)?*

***Some thoughts to use:****“Having a disability of any kind should never stop anyone from conquering the world.”— Marabi Amfaal Hydara (And to this one could add: “Anyone with different abilities may not be considered incapable or inept if we set up the appropriate context.”)*

*“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”—Albert Einstein*

*“Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them.” Albert Einstein (It is also true that, “Once we accept others’ limits, we go beyond them and don’t see them anymore.”)*