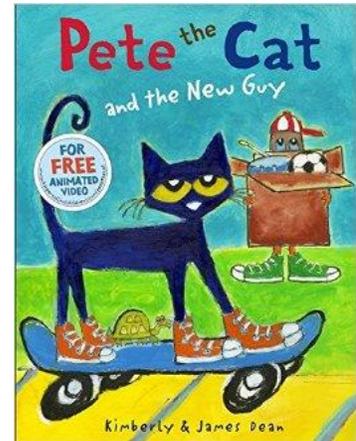


# Pete the Cat and the New Guy

By Kimberly and James Dean

*There's a new guy in town, and Pete can't wait to meet him. After all, more friends mean more fun. But who can he be? When Pete finally meets Gus, he realizes they're very different from each other . . . but that's what makes him cool. Gus is special in his own way, just like Pete and just like you, and there is something everyone can do! The message of acceptance shines through and is perfect for young readers.*

- Amazon.com



Ask the children if they've ever made a new friend. What are some things they had in common with their friend? What are some ways they were different from their friend? Explain to children that no two people are the same, but that we can enjoy what makes each person special.

**Art/Craft:** Using recycled materials, invite children to create their own musical instruments, like Pete and his friends. Point out how the children have made a variety of different instruments. Ask each child about what made them choose the instrument they created.

**Dramatic Play:** Invite the children to put together a musical performance with the instruments they created, or musical instruments you have in the room.

As an alternate idea, find a large box that the children can decorate together to create a "Gus Bus" (shown on the last page of the book).

**Games:** For older children, play "My name is \_\_\_\_, and..." Everyone sits on chairs in a circle except one person in the middle. They start by saying their name and an attribute about themselves (e.g. "My name is Suzy, and my favourite colour is red."). Everyone who shares that attribute gets up and moves to a different seat than the one they had, including the person who was just standing. There will be a new person left in the middle, and then it's their turn.

For younger children, create a memory match game using the template attached. Each child gets a chance to find the character and activity in the storybook that go together (e.g. the octopus matches with juggling).

**Gross Motor:** Create an obstacle course that invites children to move in different ways, including those described in the book—over, under, through, around, hopping, jumping, climbing, etc. Ask the children what part was easiest, and what was the most challenging. Point out how each child probably has different parts that were easy or challenging.

**Media:** Pete the Cat videos are available at <http://www.petthecatbooks.com/>

- Sesame Street's "What I Am" video about believing in yourself:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyVzjoj96vs>

**Include Families!**

Let parents know you are engaging children in conversation about accepting others, and noticing what makes each person unique. Send home the attached tip sheet from the Devereux Centre for Resilient Children to parents for them to use with their child. Children can bring back their All About Me book to share with their peers. (Tip sheet is also available online at <http://www.centerforresilientchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/All-About-Me.pdf>)

