




Title	In Your Shoes: An experience of being treated differently
Created by	
Intended Audience	Middle school and upper school age participants
Materials Needed	Stickers /signs (below), construction paper, markers, snacks, camera
Program Description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up the room for a pretend back-to-school BBQ, dinner party etc. Snacks related to the event can be served to help engage the participants and make it more fun for them. If you have a large group, set up separate areas and assign 15 to 20 participants to each group (this activity works well with groups of about 15-20 people) 2. Put stickers/signs on the backs of participants (individuals should not know what is on their own back). Not all participants need a sticker/sign 3. Ask participants to walk around talking to each other, and treating each other according to the statements on their peers' backs. For instance, one sign or sticker might say, "Don't answer me". Another sticker/sign might say, "Treat me like I'm amazing." Participants should socialize with the people in their group, while following the directions on the stickers/signs 4. During the "BBQ", participants should be instructed to ask their peers questions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you do this summer? • Do you know what your schedule is yet? • Did you go anywhere this summer? • Did your work anywhere over the summer? • Did you get your school supplies yet? What do you still need to get? 5. After socializing, gather the group for a discussion. Questions can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a feeling or emotion you felt while participating in this activity? • If you had a sticker, were you able to figure out what it said? • What did it feel like to be treated differently? • What is something you learned from this activity? • What can we, as a school/program/synagogue/etc. do differently to be more inclusive of others? • What can you personally do differently to be more inclusive of others? 6. After the debriefing, ask the group to come up with three takeaways from the activity to share with the others. These can be statements about something they can do to help or to make things better for others. Pass out construction paper and ask participants to write down one thing that they personally can do to make a difference. Take pictures of participants holding up their "pledges" to make a difference.



Sticker/Sign Ideas:

ignore me	treat me like I can't read
treat me like I don't understand anything	treat me like I have food stuck in my teeth
treat me like I can't hear	treat me like I'm aggressive and may get angry at you
treat me like I'm 2-years-old	tease me
treat me like I have drool all over my face	talk to me like I have a bad cold
talk to me like I'm a genius	give me sincere compliments
talk to me like I'm a know it all	talk to me like I'm incredibly popular
treat me like I'm smart	make fun of me
act like you don't care about me	talk down to me