



TOPIC

Acceptance & Belonging

LEVEL

Fifth Grade

THEME

Belonging Blueprint

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the lesson, the students are expected to:

- Define belonging and explain why it is important for individuals and communities.
- Identify behaviors that promote belonging and inclusion within their classroom and school.
- Recognize barriers to belonging and discuss ways to address them.
- Collaborate with peers to create a plan (Belonging Blueprint) that fosters a sense of acceptance and support.

MATERIALS

- Chart paper/whiteboard
- Markers
- Large blank poster paper (1 per group)
- Colored pencils/markers/crayons for decorating

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to truly belong to a group or community?
- Why is belonging important for our well-being and mental health?
- What behaviors and actions help people feel accepted and included?
- What role can I play in creating a school where everyone feels like they belong?
- How does Aavidum's message of "I've got your back" connect to acceptance and belonging?

CHECK-IN / WELCOME (5 MINUTES)

Say: "Welcome, everyone! Today we're going to talk about something that's really important for our school and our Aavidum message: belonging. Raise your hand if you've ever been the new kid somewhere or felt like you didn't fit in." (Pause for hands.)

Say: "Now, raise your hand if you've ever had someone include you or make you feel welcome." (Pause.)

Say: "Aavidum is all about creating a school where everyone feels like they belong and knows, 'I've got your back.' Today, we'll work together to create a Belonging Blueprint, a plan to make our classroom and school a place where everyone feels accepted."

GUIDED DISCUSSION / TOPIC INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

Put the word "Belonging" on the board.

Ask:

- "What does it mean to belong?"
- "What words or feelings come to mind when you think of belonging?"

Write student answers on the board (such as safe, included, welcome, valued).

Say: "When we belong, we feel like we're part of something bigger, like a team, a family, or a community. At school, belonging means no one is left out or feels invisible."

CONTINUED GUIDED DISCUSSION / TOPIC INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

Ask: "What are some things that can make people feel like they don't belong?"

Write responses on the board or on chart paper (such as teasing, cliques, ignoring someone, judging differences).

Say: "Aavidum means 'I've got your back.' When we live that out, we make sure no one suffers in silence or feels alone. Today we'll come up with a plan, our Belonging Blueprint, to create a school where everyone feels seen, accepted, and supported."

ACTIVITY

Instructions:

- Divide students into groups of 4 or 5.
- Give each group a large sheet of poster paper and markers.
- Give the following instructions:
 - "Your group will create a Belonging Blueprint for our class and school. On your poster, include:
 - A title: Belonging Blueprint
 - Three actions we can all take to help everyone feel included such as inviting someone sitting alone to join you, celebrating differences, or using kind words.
 - A pledge statement using the phrase, 'We will create a school where everyone belongs by...' and finish the sentence together.
 - Add words and images that represent belonging like kindness, friendship, teamwork, or our Aavidum motto."
- Circulate around the room, prompting ideas and helping groups stay focused.
- Invite each group to present their poster briefly to the class.
- As groups share, highlight common themes like kindness, inclusion, and support and reinforce Aavidum's message.
- Say: "Notice how every group focused on caring for others and making sure no one is left out. That's exactly what belonging is about."

WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

Ask:

- "What's one thing from today's lesson you can start doing right away to help someone feel like they belong?"
- "How would our school feel different if we all followed our Belonging Blueprint?"

Say: "Our challenge this week is simple: Pick one action from your blueprint and do it. Remember, even small actions like smiling at someone or inviting them to sit with you can make a big difference. Aavidum."