



# Children's Museum of Houston

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## Pre/Post Classroom Activities

### Something is Different about You

#### Rationale

*Think Tank* encourages children to use higher level thinking skills by using an array of lively and interactive components and activities. Four child characters serve as the gallery guides, spreading the message that thinking and problem solving is fun, hip, and “the thing to do.” This lesson introduces children to higher level thinking skills and provides practice of processes and tools used in problem solving.

#### TEKS Objectives (Mathematics and Science)

PreK V.E.1: Child sorts objects that are the same and different into groups and uses language to describe how the groups are similar and different.

PreK VI.A.1: Child, describes, observes, and investigates properties and characteristics of common objects.

K.7(A): The student is expected to observe, describe, and record changes in size, mass, color, position, quantity, time, temperature, sound, and movement;

#### Background

Often math and science describe how things change. Figuring out what has changed is often the first step and where problem solving skills come into play. In this lesson, students will practice observation skills by playing a game recognizing differences. They can use these observation skills in the Think Tank Gallery when they figure out the objects shown in the Close-up Photos or when examining the Optical Illusions.

#### Vocabulary

Same

Different

#### Materials

- Play jewelry
- Hats
- Glasses
- Scarves
- Other items from dress-up

#### Procedure

**Set Up:** Gather items that the children can use to change their appearance.

1. Choose a partner and face each other.
2. Take a close look at your partner because when you look at him next he will be different!

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3. Now face away from your partner.
4. Change one thing about yourself.
5. For example, roll up your sleeves, change you hair, change a ring or watch from one arm to another or take one shoe off.
6. When you are ready, turn around and see if you can find how your partner is different.
7. Play the game again changing more than one thing.

### **Questions to ask**

- Which changes did you notice first?
- Why do you think you did not see one of the changes?
- When you played the second time, did you feel that you were a better observer? How?

### **Extensions**

Change the play action. On an agreed signal, each person turns around and quickly lists multiple differences on each player before the time is up. Give points for the number of differences identified.

Make the game different by changing more than one thing about yourself, adding a timer or using things from your toy box.

### **Resources**

Zobel-Nolan, Allia. *Look at Me!/Mirame: An English/Spanish Book About Differences*. Readers Digest Children's Publishing, Incorporated, 2005

This board book can be used as an introduction and practice in identifying differences.