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# My Very Own Way — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 35–45 minutes | CASEL Domain: Self-Awareness

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**Objective:** Students will recognize that doing things differently is not doing things wrong and that originality requires courage.

**Essential Question:** *"What happens when you stop following and start creating your own way?"*

**Materials:** The personalized story, Paper and art supplies, Playdough or clay, Music (various tempos)

**Vocabulary:** Unique, Original, Path, Different, Courage, Create, Rhythm, Style, Confidence, Belong

## ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Quick poll: "Do you hold your pencil the same way as your neighbor? Do you eat your sandwich the same way?" Look around — everyone already does things their own way!

## DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause when the hero feels the discomfort of not fitting in — validate it. Pause when they try their own way — celebrate it. Emphasize: different is not deficient, it's distinctive.

## GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Same Materials, Different Art: everyone gets identical supplies and creates freely. Compare results. Discuss: same starting point, beautiful differences.

## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Create a fingerprint character that represents YOU. Write: "My own way is \_\_\_\_\_. It's special because \_\_\_\_\_."

## CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Gallery walk of art. Each child shares one thing that's uniquely theirs. Class cheer: "My way is MY way!"

## ASSESSMENT

Observe comfort with difference during activities. Review fingerprint characters and writing. Exit ticket: "Name one thing you do your own way."

## DIFFERENTIATION

**Support:** Provide examples of "different ways" with visuals. Partner share before class share to build confidence.

**Extend:** Interview classmates about their unique ways and create a "Class Book of Our Own Ways."

## HOME CONNECTION

Send home the fingerprint character. Ask families to each make one and display them together: different but connected.