

## Teaching Metaphysics Lesson Plan (Personal Identity/Fuzzy Predicates)

Alex Demircan, Samsam Dirie, Mollie Leibowitz Rabin

Total Time: 30-40 mins

Ages: 4-5

Materials:

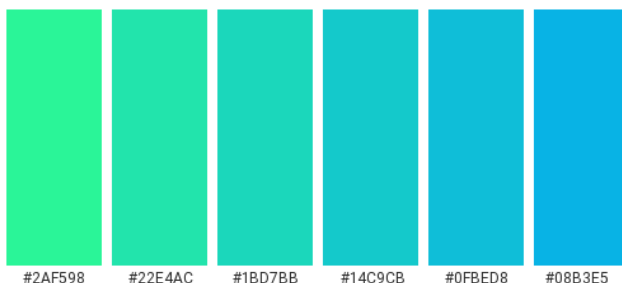
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle
- Diagram/materials for activity:
  - Pictures of aging diagrams
  - Color scale
  - Paper
  - Crayons

Goal:

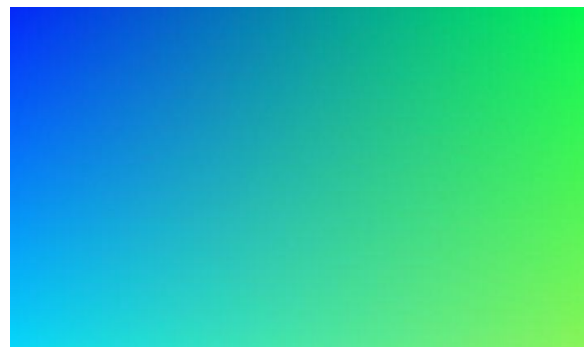
To engage students in a discussion of personal identity through examining how the same being can grow/change over time.

Introduction (5 mins): **Samsam**

- Introduce ourselves
- Go around in a circle and ask the students to give their name and answer an icebreaker question- have children stand up when they answer.
  - What's your favorite kind of cereal? Why?
- Introduce philosophy and give examples of some philosophical questions
  - What is time?
  - What is dreaming?
  - What is love?
- How to answer these questions using reason and examples.
  - "I understand this because," "I agree because," "I disagree because"
- Introduce metaphysics using the color scale
  - At what point on the scale does green turn into blue, vice versa



Blue Green Gradient Color Scheme - by SchemeColor.com



Book (5 mins): **Mollie**

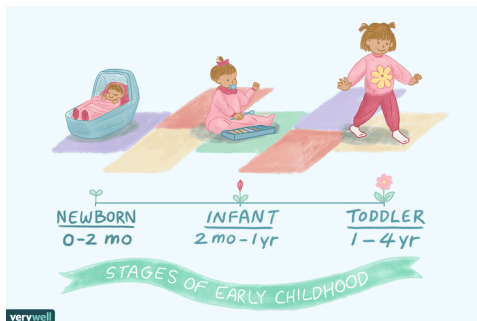
- Read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Book Discussion (5 mins):

- How many bugs are featured in this book?
- What are some similarities between the caterpillar and the butterfly?
  - What are some differences?
- Is the little caterpillar the same as the big caterpillar?
- Is the caterpillar the same as the butterfly?
- What makes the butterfly and the caterpillar the same entity?
- How can you change and still be the same?

Activity and Discussion (10 mins): Alex

- Are you a baby or kid?
- What is the difference between a baby and a kid?



- Show some sort of developmental diagram like the examples above and ask students to point to when baby becomes a kid, kid becomes an adult
- Ask children to draw a picture of what they think they will look like when they are our age.
  - Show them pictures of ourselves when we were kindergarten aged
    - Compare the children to the drawings and ourselves to our photographs (if time permits)
  - Will you be the same person when you are our age? Why or why not?
    - Bring up memories if they do not raise it on their own.
  - What will make you the same person?
  - What will make you change/ what will change?
- Get students to realize that there is no definitive point where such a change occurs

Wrap-Up (5 mins)

- What did you learn/take away from today's lesson?