



I'M SPECIAL

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE SELF-ESTEEM WHILE IMPROVING READING READINESS AND MATH SKILLS

DEAR EDUCATOR,

Help your students get a great start to the school year with this free *I'm Special* teaching program. Award-winning curriculum specialists Young Minds Inspired (YMI) and Warner Bros. have teamed up to bring you this exciting learning guide, full of lessons to nurture students' self-esteem and encourage imagination and creativity, all while supporting important readiness skills. In addition, each lesson promotes extended learning in a specific area, such as movement, block play, art and circle time.

Leading the way in the *I'm Special* program is *Krypto*, the main character in Cartoon Network's animated series, *Krypto, the Superdog*. Krypto hails from the planet *Krypton*. Along with his best pal Kevin and a host of other heroic animals, Krypto battles the forces threatening the people and animals of *Metropolis*. Special, smart, brave and strong, Krypto is just what every preschooler wants to be!

The activities in the *I'm Special* program reinforce the message that each student is special in his or her own way. And, you can reward students with their own *I'm Special* stickers for a job well done.

Viewing the program is not necessary to complete the activities, however, students who have seen the program may want to share Krypto's many adventures. *Krypto, the Superdog* is on Monday-Friday at 2:30 p.m. E/P, on Cartoon Network.

The materials in this kit are copyrighted, however, you may make additional copies for students and share the materials with other teachers. You can also download copies at www.ymiteacher.com

Sincerely,



Joel Ehrlich,
President and former teacher



KRYPTO THE SUPERDOG and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © 2005 DC Comics.

Brimming with action, humor and heart, each episode of *Krypto, the Superdog* encourages young children to view themselves as special. And so do these teaching materials.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To encourage imagination and creativity
- To enhance social-emotional skills, including self-concept, working as a group and making friends
- To support readiness skills, including listening, language and vocabulary, matching and completing a story
- To encourage fine-motor skills
- To encourage math skills, including counting and making comparisons
- To encourage parent participation

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This four-page teacher's guide
- Four reproducible student activity masters, each with a take-home component
- A colorful wall poster to motivate student cooperation
- Stickers to use as reinforcement for good deeds

WHO SHOULD USE THESE MATERIALS

This kit is designed for preschool and kindergarten students.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Students will need one activity sheet and crayons or markers to complete each lesson, plus materials listed. Each activity incorporates a specific area of the preschool classroom for an even greater level of active play.

"I'M SPECIAL" STICKERS

The stickers included in this program may be distributed after the program introduction or after students have completed all of the activities in the program. Or, use them as a reward.

MEET YOUR SPECIAL LEARNING PARTNERS

KRYPTO, THE SUPERDOG was born on the planet *Krypton*. *Krypto* first belonged to *Superman* before *Krypto* was launched into space as a test-pilot puppy by Superman's dad. Problems with his rocket caused *Krypto* to land on Earth in Kevin Whitney's back yard. *Krypto's* amazing array of powers range from special vision to super strength to flying.

- **KEVIN** is *Krypto's* best friend. Kevin and his family just moved to *Metropolis*. Both he and *Krypto* have to adjust to their new place. Kevin knows *Krypto's* secret, but doesn't tell his parents or friends. Kevin has convinced his parents to let him keep *Krypto* as his pet. They give him a doghouse, even though *Krypto's* rocket is hidden in the back yard.



STREAKY is the pet cat of Kevin's next-door neighbor, Andrea. Andrea treats *Streaky* like a king. But *Streaky* would rather hang out with alley cats. Quite by accident, *Streaky* gets his own super powers that *Krypto* helps him use.

THE DOG STAR PATROL includes *Brainy Barker*, *Mammoth Mut*, *Paw Pooch* and *Tail Terrier*. This special team of dogs from different galaxies™ protects the universe from any sign of trouble. When they need *Krypto's* help, they signal him with the special Dog Star flare in the night sky.

HOW TO USE THE POSTER

Display the poster in a central area. Have students bring photos of themselves from home to display in the space around *Krypto*. Also, use photos of children at school. Teach students the following "A Special Kid" song to establish classroom rules and learn important social skills early in the school year. Repeat the song with different ending phrases by providing (or calling on students) to supply new ending lines. (Examples: I'll listen to my teacher today, share a toy today, make someone feel good today, etc.)

"A SPECIAL KID"

(Sung to the tune of "Oh Do You Know the Muffin Man?")

A special kid is what I am, is what I am, is what I am,
A special kid is what I am,
I'll be a good friend today.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Ask students to share what they think a superdog might be like—what it does, where it lives, what it eats, where it came from. Then, introduce students to *Krypto*, the Superdog by showing them the poster included in this teaching kit. Tell students that *Krypto* has many super powers, including strength, speed, special vision and the ability to fly. Tell students that *Krypto* will help them learn that they are special, too! They can be special by being a good friend, sharing at home and at school, and listening to teachers and parents.

IF I HAD SUPER POWERS



Activity 1

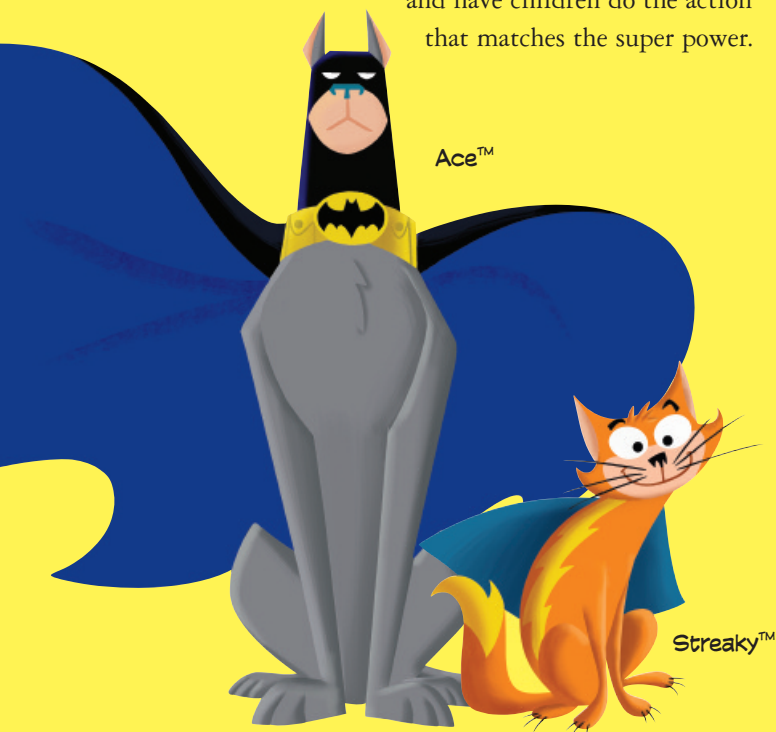
Additional Materials: Metallic-colored crayons (optional), tape/CD/record player and musical selection of your choice

Distribute the activity sheets. Help children identify the pictures where Krypto is using his super powers. Remind children that Krypto has amazing strength and speed as well as special vision and the ability to fly.

Ask children to pretend they have super powers to help others. Have them share their super-power choice and tell how they would use it. Then have children color the border and draw a picture of themselves with their super power in the blank space on the activity sheet. Conclude the lesson with *Krypto's Super Power Movement Activity* below. Then have students take their papers home to share their drawings and super-power wishes with parents.

KRYPTO'S SUPER POWER MOVEMENT ACTIVITY

Help children create special motions for each of Krypto's super powers—such as flexing their arm muscles to show strength, running in place to exhibit speed, shielding eyes to show special vision and extending arms to show flying. Then have children practice their super-power listening skills. Play a musical selection of your choice on a tape or CD player. When you stop the music, say one of Krypto's super powers. Then start the music and have children do the action that matches the super power.



I CAN BE SPECIAL LIKE KRYPTO



Activity 2

Additional Materials: Scissors, hole punch and string or yarn

Tell students that they may not have super powers like Krypto, but they can still be special helpers.

Have children talk about ways they can help at school and at home. Guide the discussion by providing specific settings, such as at clean-up time, lunchtime, playtime and rest time (school) and getting ready for school, taking care of a pet, playing with a sibling or getting ready for bed (home).

Distribute the activity sheets. Help students identify how Krypto is being a helper in the pictures on the activity sheets.

Help children determine one way they can be a special helper at home. Children may either illustrate their idea on a separate paper or you may write it down on a flip pad.

Students may now partner to play a memory/matching game with their squares. First help them cut out the squares and write their names on the back of each one. As they partner, have children share with each other the helping task they will perform at home. Then have them turn the remaining pictures over face down. They will take turns looking for a match by turning the cards over two at a time. After students have matched their cards, conclude the activity with *Krypto's Special Helper Art Project* below.

KRYPTO'S SPECIAL HELPER ART PROJECT

Help children punch a hole in the top and bottom of each of their picture squares. Use the string to connect the pictures together vertically.

Be sure to make a top loop of string for hanging. Have children take their wall hangings home to share with parents and display in their rooms.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



Activity 3

Additional Materials: Blocks from your block center, popsicle sticks, glue, contact paper (optional) and character cut-outs (made by copying two or three extra pages of this activity master, then coloring and cutting out the character images)

Read the following paragraph aloud to students:

One day, Krypto and Kevin were playing together in Kevin's backyard. All at once, aliens from another planet appeared. Then they shrank Krypto and Kevin to a teeny tiny size so they could place them inside a glass jar and take them back home.

Now distribute the activity sheets. Tell students that it is usually *Krypto* who helps others. But now, it is *Krypto* who needs help. Tell students they will use their imaginations to tell the story of what happens next in their very own special adventure with *Krypto*. Remind children of the super power they imagined themselves to have in *Activity 1*. Instruct them to pretend they have that super power as they finish the story and help *Krypto*.

First they must use the activity sheet to select a character helper to assist them in the story. (You may read aloud the sections from this guide about *Streaky* and the *Dog Star Patrol* from the *Meet Your Special Learning Partners* section.) Then have students select a place, or setting, for the story continuation. Children will illustrate (or you may take student dictation) their stories on the back of the activity sheet.

Do a comparison activity with students' stories. Group students according to "place" and "helper" selections. Count and compare how many students chose the same or different character helpers and settings. Conclude the activity with *Krypto's Special Adventure Block Building Activity* below.

KRYPTO'S SPECIAL ADVENTURE BLOCK BUILDING ACTIVITY

First, copy two or three extra activity sheets and color and cut out all of the characters. Make puppets by gluing each character cutout on a popsicle stick. You can cover the pictures with contact paper for durability. Then have students use the blocks from the block area to build *Krypto's* rocket and the buildings and streets of *Metropolis*. They can use the character puppets together with the block buildings to act out their story ideas.

I'M SPECIAL



Activity 4

Additional Materials: Art media including colored glue, yarn, ribbon, string, confetti, sequins, foil strips, stickers, etc.

Distribute the activity masters. Have children color and decorate the *I'm Special* badge at school using the materials provided. Explain to children that their parents will help them complete the remainder of the activity at home by filling in the blanks for the *I'm Special* section of the badge. After children have completed their badge, follow-up with the next activity.

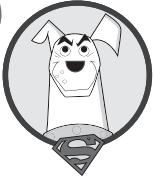
YOU'RE SPECIAL BECAUSE...CIRCLE ACTIVITY

Explain that you would like to hear about ways children think of one another as special. Give a few examples by telling children how you think another teacher is special because she or he always has a smile in the morning, or how the school director is special because she makes sure all the children are well taken care of.

RESOURCES

www.cartoonnetwork.com
www.ymiteacher.com





Activity 1

IF I HAD SUPER POWERS



Reproducible
Master



Here's how I help!



on Cartoon Network,
Monday-Friday at 2:30 p.m. E/P.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child is participating in a unique I'm Special teaching unit. Activities in the program use characters and themes from Cartoon Network's animated series, *Krypto, the Superdog*, to support your child's development in many areas, including reading readiness, mathematics, social-emotional growth, creativity and imagination.

Krypto, the Superdog hails from the planet *Krypton* and has an amazing array of super powers. Special, smart, brave and strong, *Krypto* is just what every child wants to be!

In this activity students drew themselves with a super power. Have them tell you about their drawing. Then share the super power you would like to have!





Activity 2

I CAN BE SPECIAL LIKE KRYPTO

Reproducible
Master

Krypto uses his special powers to help out. You can help out, too!



Watch
KRYPTO
The SUPERDOG
on Cartoon Network,
Monday-Friday at 2:30 p.m. E/P.

Be a special helper at home like Krypto.





Activity 3

Reproducible
Master

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Krypto and Kevin need your help. Choose a helper and a place.

Helpers

Places



Streaky™

Krypto's
Rocket Ship



The Dog Star™
Patrol



Krypto's
Doghouse



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In this activity of the I'm Special program, students practiced the important pre-reading skill of storytelling. Have them tell you about their story that is on the back of this paper.

Watch
KRYPTO
The SUPERDOG
on Cartoon Network,
Monday-Friday at 2:30 p.m. E/P.





Activity 4
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I'M SPECIAL

Parent/Child Activity
Reproducible
Master

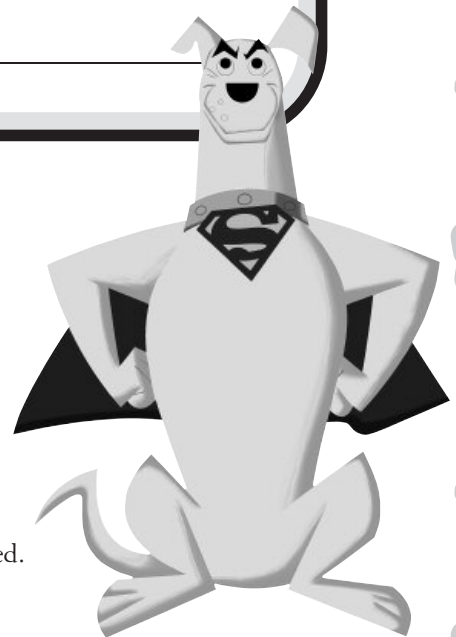


I'M *SPECIAL*
BECAUSE...



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Help your child complete the I'm Special badge above. First, talk with your child about the "special" qualities he or she possesses. For example, perhaps your daughter remembers to say "please" or "thank you" or maybe your son gives the sweetest goodnight kisses ever! Write down the "special" traits (list more than one!) inside the I'm Special badge on the lines provided. Then find a place in his or her room so that it may be proudly displayed.



WE'RE A SPECIAL CLASS



KRYPTO™

is SPECIAL – and
so are we!

*KRYPTO IS
SPECIAL, SMART, BRAVE
AND STRONG!*

Catch

KRYPTO™

The SUPERDOG

on Cartoon Network,
Monday-Friday
at 2:30 p.m. E/P.



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