



Head Start School Intervention Project

**Safety Classroom Environment: I Spy – Missing Student**

**Goal of activity:** Children exposed to violence may have difficulty with changes in their environment. This activity fosters attention and problem solving for positive change.

**Approximate length of activity: 10 – 15 minutes**

**Materials:** Posterboard with pictures of all students

**Instructional Procedures:**

- The teacher/aide will hide a picture of one child who is present.
- The teacher/aide will invite students to sit in a circle so that all students can view board.
- The teacher/aide will ask the students to try to figure out who is missing.
- The teacher/aide will provide hints (hair color, shirt color, first letter of student’s name etc) until they figure it out.



Feeling Good about Learning



Feeling Safe



Calming My Body and Mind



**KEY POINTS – Signs of anxiety**

**Provide an adult companion for the child who is hidden**

**Difficulty generating guesses**

**Difficulty speaking in front of others**

- Repeat this activity several times
- Allow students to participate as much or as little as they are comfortable.
- Allow children to observe others guessing.
- Encourage other students to help with the clues or guesses



**LITERACY TIPS**

**Oral Language**

- Use probing questions to encourage the use of complex sentences: “How can we figure out who is missing?”  
“Do you remember who was sitting next to you during breakfast?”

**Phonology**

- Provide the first and last sound of the missing child’s name as a clue: “The child who is missing has a name that starts with the sound ‘h’ and ends with the sound ‘e’.”

**Print Knowledge**

- Hold up cards with each child’s name written out. Encourage children to guess whose name is on the card and to look around to see if that child is in the room.