



**PULL OUT
AND TAKE
TO YOUR SCHOOL!**

Facing Differences

Working With Kids to Change Attitudes

AboutFace is proud to introduce our new independent school program.

We are an international organization that provides information services, emotional support and educational programs for individuals with facial differences and their families. We work to increase public awareness and understanding of the challenges and abilities of adults and children living with a facial difference. Our goal is to help all persons with facial differences to achieve a positive self-image and self-esteem so that they can participate fully in society.

One of our objectives is to help children with facial differences to feel good about themselves both inside and out. We work with kids, parents and teachers to learn about physical differences with openness and respect.

Our new program, Facing Differences is an interactive educational resource designed for children aged 8 to 12. The independent format (video and program guide with student activities) provides teachers accessibility and flexibility to direct learning on diversity issues within their classroom.

Facing Differences works to increase acceptance and understanding of students with physical differences and to raise awareness of diversity issues within the elementary school community. It explores the common thread of physical differences that weaves across many types of distinctions such as disabilities, race, ethnicity, gender and body types.

The program video is narrated by Paul Stanley, lead singer of the legendary rock band KISS and Spokesperson for AboutFace. Paul leads our cast of children and the student viewing audience through key program concepts of curiosity, appearance, first impressions, responsibility and respect. Students are taught how to apply these ideas to people and are introduced to a young girl with a facial difference.

The program guide supports educators in preparing students to view the video. It includes curriculum links and resources for teachers and extensive introductory and follow-up activities for children in grades 2 to 6. The grade specific activities have been designed by educators to reinforce key learning objectives and stimulate meaningful discussion. They support.

- A sensitive exploration of curiosity and appearance.
- The enhancement of observational and language skills.
- A critical analysis of children's literature and media.
- The development of skills for dealing with teasing and bullying.
- The cultivation of empathy and the ability to imagine a world that is more inclusive.

At AboutFace, we believe that the most effective way to improve attitudes and change behaviours is through positive proactive learning.

MEET THE CAST

Paul Stanley

I became involved with AboutFace because of my desire to reach out and educate society about the challenges of living with a facial difference. I know first hand the feelings of social isolation and pain experienced by children who look different. I too was born with a congenital condition called Mictoria, which affected the structure of my right ear.

Taking on the role of narrator in the Facing Differences school program presented me with the opportunity to help children explore physical differences, and hopefully build acceptance through understanding in the classroom. This unique program allows kids to step into each other's shoes and explore diversity, discover similarities, and develop empathy. It also gives educators the resources and guidelines to help direct learning in this very sensitive and personal issue.

I believe that when children realize commonalities between each other, regardless of their physical differences, then we have begun to plant the seeds of tolerance for the future. This is the ultimate goal of Facing Differences.

Therefore, I invite you to join us in our mission to create school environments where every child feels valued and respected. Help children reach their fullest potential through acceptance.



Colleen Wheatley



AboutFace originally approached me about being part of their school program in 1996, when I was in grade seven. I had been involved in the organization for a few years and was excited to share my experiences with other kids. A camera crew followed me around interviewing my friends, family and teachers. Initially we were all nervous, but soon relaxed and had a lot of fun. I realized that there were no right "answers" as to how to grow up with a facial difference and that other kids would benefit from seeing my story.

When I was asked to continue my role into the new independent version of the program, I couldn't believe that five years had passed. This time we filmed the video for Facing Differences in a studio with a celebrity narrator, Paul Stanley. But just like before, everyone helped me to feel comfortable. It was great to get another chance, as an eighteen year old, to update my feedback to kids. I had learned a lot during these five years.

Watching the new video makes me blush, laugh and smile. But most of all it makes me feel happy that my story will continue to help others. I am incredibly proud to be a part of the AboutFace school program. It is rewarding to know that Facing Differences will be used in schools across North America to help kids understand facial differences.

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Facing Differences Student Cast:

Louis Coreas
Saieeda Joachim
Seo-Young Kim
Carly Krebs
Anthony LaFlamme-Lemieux
Brendan Lee
Joshua McCaul
Stephanie McIntosh
Cameron McKenzie
Kyle McKenzie
Jesse McCuaig
Lee McCuaig
Angeline Navarro
Alexandra Pileggi
Victoria Pileggi
Matthew Ubbi
Steven Ubbi
Maria Won