



## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SEL)

- Players accept that they are good at different things.
- Players make friends with teammates and have fun, even if they are different.
- Players are able to ask an adult/coach for help or support.

## COACHING LANGUAGE

- Everyone has different strengths and abilities.
- Our team is good because we are all different.
- Our team will be great when you play together as friends.



# developing **RESPECT** through the acceptance of differences and **SOLIDARITY** through team-spirit



It was a beautiful sunny day in Africa. The sun wasn't too hot and the wind wasn't too cold. It was the perfect day for some rugby fun. The animals were very excited because the World Cup rugby tournament was just around the corner and today was the day that King Lion was choosing his team. "Dear animals of South Africa" he said, sounding very important. "Show me who is the best in our land. Who must I choose for my team?" The elephants immediately jumped up, startling everyone with their loud trumpeting. "Pick us! Pick us! We are the strongest and biggest of all the animals and will surely win the Cup." To show their strength, the elephants put their heads down and pushed over a big tree. King Lion was impressed. "No, no," shouted the little springboks. "Elephants are so clumsy. Look at how light and quick we are on our feet. We will run circles around any opposition," they said, launching into a display of fancy footwork. King Lion was impressed. "We don't think so!" objected the giraffe, standing tall and proud. "You guys are too short. Choose us! We are the tallest animals in your kingdom. Every high ball will be ours and we will bring the cup home," they said, throwing and catching the ball way out of reach of the other animals. King Lion was impressed.

"Wait!" shouted the baboons, swinging down from the trees. "We are the animals with the best ball skills. We will out-smart any opposition," they promised before showing off their skills in an impressive display. King Lion was impressed, but not for long. Cheetah interrupted: "You are full of tricks, but everyone knows that we are the fastest animals on the planet. You will not have a winning team unless a cheetah is in it!" he said and took off across the plains, disappearing in a cloud of dust. The afternoon

passed by and buffalo showed how hard he could tackle and scrum and rhino showed how good she was at winning the loose ball. King Lion was impressed but also confused. The animals were all so different and impressive in their own way, he didn't know who to pick for his team. King Lion walked over to consult with wise old Tortoise who had been watching the trials from the shade of a big tree. "Who should I pick?" he asked thoughtfully. Wise old Tortoise looked at all the animals. "Mmmmmmmmm," he said, scratching his head. "Pick a few elephant for strength and springbok for agility ... add a giraffe or two for height and a trio of baboons to dazzle with their ball skills. Then ... include two cheetah for speed and buffalo and rhino to scrum and scuffle." King Lion looked at him in surprise. "Different animals all in one team?" He wasn't convinced. "Yes!" said Tortoise. "A strong team needs all the skills these different animals offer. But they will only become a GREAT team when they realise that being different is good and when they play together as friends." And so King Lion did something quite out of the ordinary and put all the different animals of Africa into one team. From that day on they did not only practise rugby, but they celebrated being different and learnt to play together as friends.

**Our different strengths make us a good team, BUT playing together as friends makes us GREAT!**

