



DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE BOOKS

Reading diverse and inclusive books is a wonderful way to allow children to see themselves reflected, learn about other people and their experiences, imagine themselves in another place or time, imagine themselves in another person's experiences, recognize our similarities, and celebrate differences.

Reading is more than fundamental. It provides the opportunity to teach our children about kindness, compassion and empathy for others, and that diversity of stories matter. All kids should be able to see themselves as the stars of their own stories. As there is not one type of child, there should not be one type of story.

Birth - 12 MONTHS

- I Will Talk to You, Little One*** by Phyllis E. Gran
- I Love You Like Sunshine*** by Mariana Glusman, MD
- Global Babies*** by The Global Fund for Children
- Reach: A Board Book About Curiosity*** by Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisovskis
- Cradle Me*** by Debby Slier
- Baby Says*** by John Steptoe
- Kiss by Kiss / Ocetowina: A Counting Book for Families*** by Richard Van Camp



Toddler 12-36 MONTHS

- My Heart Fills with Happiness*** by Monique Gray Smith
- My Friends / Mis Amigos*** by Taro Gomi
- Jazz Baby*** by Lisa Wheeler
- Bee-bim Bop!*** by Linda Sue Park
- Grandma's Tiny House: A Counting Story*** by JaNay Brown-Wood
- Brown Baby Lullaby*** by Tameka Fryer
- Please, Baby, Please*** by Tonya Lewis Lee and Spike Lee
- Welcome to the Party*** by Gabrielle Union
- Say Hello!*** by Rachel Isadora



WORKING TOGETHER

This list was created in collaboration between the AAP Section on Minority Health, Equity and Inclusion, the Book List Committee of the AAP Council on Early Childhood and the Reach Out and Read Book Committee. It features a sampling of our favorite titles to assist families in selecting books to share with their young children.

Be Who You Are! by Todd Parr

Round is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes by Roseanne Thong

I Am Enough by Grace Byers

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry

Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match by Monica Brown

The Twins' Blanket by Hyewon Yum

Julian Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love

A Kids Book About Racism by Jelani Memory

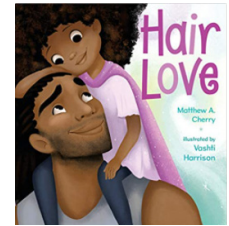
And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

Just Because by Rebecca Elliott

Lubna and Pebble by Wendy Meddour

Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

You Hold Me Up by Monique Gray Smith



TIPS FOR CHOOSING DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE BOOKS

Look for books that:

- Include characters of color, LGBTQ+ characters, or characters with disabilities—especially books where these are main characters
- Are written or illustrated by a person of color or an LGBTQ+ person
- Feature a person of color on the cover. The characters on the book cover should accurately reflect the characters in the book
- Can serve as both “mirrors” and “windows”—books in which children can see themselves reflected and in which they can learn about others
- Ensure that storylines do not simply repeat the same story we always hear. Do all your books featuring black characters focus on slavery? Are all your LGBTQ+ books coming out stories?
- Feature diverse characters that are not only about race or prejudice

Avoid books that:

- Contain hurtful racial or ethnic stereotypes, or images (e.g. Little House on the Prairie or The Five Chinese Brothers)
- Focus on the 5 F's (food, fashion, folklore, festivals, and famous people). While books like these can provide a window into different cultures and traditions, it is important to ensure that the books you select do not reinforce stereotypes or overgeneralize individuals or groups of people. Be sure to also select books that feature diverse groups in everyday settings.