



WHY CHOOSE ANTI-BIAS BOOKS + TOYS?

ParentChild+ is committed to ensuring that all children have access to high-quality educational materials. As society evolves, and the families we work with become increasingly diverse, it is imperative for social service organizations to engage in continuous quality improvement. For example, research has shown the lack of diversity and inclusivity in educational books and toys (Hughes-Hassell, 2010). It is our goal to challenge this trend and provide the ParentChild+ community with the resources needed to enrich the lives of families by sharing materials that are diverse, inclusive, and encompass the values of our program.

Young children begin to notice race and skin color as early as six months of age (Katz and Kofkin, 1997). As toddlers, they draw their conclusions from their environment: people around them and objects in their homes. Therefore, children and families need to see themselves reflected in books and toys. They also need to see the diverse people that will be in their classmates, neighbors, teachers, and community members. Program materials should not only be a vehicle for increasing parent-child interaction and improving school readiness outcomes, but they should also develop strong, confident, and self-assured individuals.

The following checklist is a guide to help you select anti-bias books and toys. The more boxes you can check off, the more anti-biased the materials. Your curriculum should be a well-rounded representation of accurate and respectful books and toys that serve a myriad of purposes.

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To learn more:

<https://www.teachingforchange.org/selecting-anti-bias-books>

ANTI-BIAS CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

BOOKS + TOYS
SHOULD BE

- FREE OF STEREOTYPES
- FREE FROM TOKENISM
- AVOID LOADED WORDS
- ACCURATE AND RESPECTFUL

SOME BOOKS + TOYS SHOULD

- SHOW FAMILIES AND LIFESTYLES THAT REPRESENT YOUR PROGRAM FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITY
- INCLUDE PEOPLE, NOT ONLY ANIMALS
- REPRESENT PEOPLE GROUPS WHO ARE OFTEN EXCLUDED OR UNSEEN
- SHOW DIVERSE ABILITIES
- BE WRITTEN OR ILLUSTRATED BY PEOPLE OF COLOR
- INCLUDE "DOERS" OF ALL AGES AND GROUPS
- PORTRAY ACTION TOWARD CHANGE

ALSO
CONSIDER

- CHOOSING BOOKS + TOYS WITH RECENT PUBLICATION OR DESIGN DATES (AS THEY MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT OUR DIVERSE SOCIETY)

ANTI-BIAS TERMS + DEFINITIONS

STEREOTYPE

A stereotype is an oversimplified generalization about a particular identity group which usually carries derogatory, inaccurate messages and applies them to ALL people in the group. Instead of including stereotypes, books should elevate, honor, and praise individuals as well as their culture, lifestyle choices and decisions.

TOKENISM

Tokenism is evident when you see only “one” person from a specific group and/or nationality in a book. Another example of tokenism is only having ONE book in your library that promotes diversity and inclusion. Books should include several characters who share diverse physical and or social characteristics so children can see that these characters are equally important.

INVISIBILITY

Invisibility is when a certain group of people are omitted, which reinforces prejudiced ideas about people who are not seen. Some examples of groups who are often excluded are: rural, blue collar, Muslims, musicians, etc. We should seek to represent all groups in our libraries.

"DOERS"

Books should portray "doers" of all groups and ethnicities. Even if a book shows visual diversity, the story line may carry biases related to how it handles power relationships among people of various identities. Your book collection needs a balance of different people in “doer” roles.

ACTION FOR CHANGE

Books should be about children and adults working together, rather than perpetrating the myth that change happens because of special, individual people creating change by themselves. Heroes in books should be characters who are working together to create change and bring about justice. They should also empower children to be brave and create change when faced with unfairness.

LOADED WORDS

A word is loaded when it demeans or makes people invisible because of their identities. One example is the generic use of the word “man” to stand for women (although the opposite never occurs). Here are some examples of ways to avoid sexist language: "community" instead of "brotherhood" and "firefighters" instead of "firemen." Examples of loaded adjectives applied to people of color that carry racist messages include: “savage,” “primitive,” “superstitious,” and “backward.” Books should use language that describes characters in constructive and positive manner.

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These peer suggested book and toy resources are sourced from ParentChild+ site staff and families across the country. This is a first step towards supplying books and toys to families and child care providers that:

- Show ethnically and culturally diverse characters and experiences
- Are written and illustrated primarily by authors and illustrators of color*
- Are developmentally appropriate
- Are high quality
- Have rich narratives and interesting illustrations
- Introduce new vocabulary and concepts
- Are affordable and accessible

***Please note:** The emphasis on using books by authors and illustrators of color, or authors with disabilities, is to elevate voices that have been silenced for too long and to ensure that the stories are being represented accurately and respectfully by someone who shares a similar background. However, books written or illustrated by authors and illustrators of color are often hard to find and expensive. Being cognizant of these challenges, the below “Peer Suggested Resources” have also included a few books written by white authors that have accurately and respectfully represented their characters, to the best of our knowledge, while we wait for the access gap to shrink.

This document also includes additional book resources and activity ideas, as well as helpful suggestions for selecting books and toys with intentionality.

This Initial list of resources compiled by Jackie Herrera, Vanessa Ruiz, Margarita Chan with support from Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum, Jessica Faith, and Michele Morrison; it was added to by ParentChild+ sites around the world.

**Diverse books with a focus on author + illustrator representation
(Ages 2-3 years old)**

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

Ammachi's Glasses by Priya Kuriyan

Baby Goes to Market by Alinuke and Angela Brooksbank

Banana for Two by Ellen Mayer

Book Fiesta by Pat Mora

Bring in the New Year 迎接新的一年 by Grace Lin

Dim Sum for Everyone by Grace Lin

Dragon Dance 舞龙 by Karen Katz

Eva the Afro-Latina by Eva Sarai Johnson

Every Little Thing by Cedella Marly

Feast For 10 by Cathryn Falwell

Golden Blooms: Celebrating Tet-Vietnamese Lunar New Year by YT Tran

Good Morning World by Paul Windsor

Grandma's Tiny House by JaNay Brown-Wood

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors by Hena Khan

Goodnight World: Animals of the Native Northwest by First Nations and Native Artists

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry

Happy Hair by Mechal Renee Roe

I Like Myself by Karen Beamont

Las Ruedas del Autobus sung by La Familia Amador

Little Humans by Brandon Stanton

Maharani the Cow by Christy Shoba Sudhir

Mina's Scavenger Hunt by Katrina Liu

My First Book of Vietnamese Words: An ABC Rhyming Book of Vietnamese Language and Culture

by Phuoc Thi Minh Tran

My First Chinese New Year by Karen Katz

Native Animals by Kelly Robinson

One Love by Cedella Marley

Please, Baby, Please by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee

Please, Puppy, Please by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee

Say Hello! by Rachel Isadora

Sharing Our World: Animals of the Native Northwest Coast by First Nations and Native Artists

Indigenous

Sing' n Learn Vietnamese by Hop Thi Nguyen

The Giraffe That Ate the Moon by Aralie Rangel

The Power of Kindness by Julie Merberg

The Swirling Hijaab by Na'ima bint Robert

We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers by Julie Flett

What Happened to You? by James Catchpole

Wheels on the Tuk Tuk by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal

Un Elefante by Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein

**Diverse books with a focus on author + illustrator representation
(Ages 3-4 years old)**

Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao by Kat Zhang
Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon by Kat Zhang
Animals of the Salish Sea by Melaney Gleeson-Lyall
Bippity Bop Barbershop by Natasha Tarpley
Can Bears Ski? by Raymond Antrobus and Polly Dunbar
Celebrating the Chinese New Year 庆祝中国新年 by Sanmu Tang
Colourful Rainy Day 七彩下雨天 by Jin Jinghua
Dreamers/Soñadores by Yuyi Morales
Dumpling Soup 餃子湯 by Jama Kim Rattigan
Evelyn del Rey is Moving Away by Meg Medina
Eyes that Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho
Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard
Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne
Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho and Holly Meade
My Friend Max: A Story About a Friend with Autism by Reena Patel
I Am Enough by Grace Byers
If Dominican Were a Color by Sili Recio
I Love My Hair! by Natasha Tarpley
I'll Build You a Bookcase by Jean Ciborowski Fahey
Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña
Learning My Rights with Mousewoman by Morgan Asoyuf
Little Anbu/Chhota Anbu by Christy Shoba Sudhir
Lola at the Library by Anna McQuinn
Lulu the One and Only by Lynnette Mawhinney
Mum, Let's buy Green Beans! 妈妈, 买绿豆! by Zeng Yang Qing
Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina
My Heart Fills with Happiness by Julie Flett

Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

P Is for Poppadoms! An Indian Alphabet Book by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal

¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta? / What Can You Do with a Paleta? by Carmen Tafolla

Quinto's Neighborhood by Ina Cumpiano

Red is a Dragon by Grace Lin

Round is a Tortilla by Roseanne Greenfield Thong

Saturday by Oge Mora

Shubh Diwali! by Chitra Soundar and Charlene Chua

Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Sweetest Kulu by Celina Kalluk

Thank You Omu! by Oge Mora

The Crown is Yours by Khalil Munir

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family

The Ugly Vegetables 难看的蔬菜 by Grace Lin

The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes

Vaccines Explained by Ohemaa Boahemaa

Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories by Phuoc Thi Minh Tran

When I Close My Eyes by Ty Allan Jackson

Winnie and Her Worries by Reena Patel

Activities + ideas that build on culture

Recruitment and Enrollment:

- Host playgroups in other languages open to the community.
- Ask “funds of knowledge” questions and incorporate those answers into later activities. Make every effort to learn what is unique about the family (e.g., finding out how they identify, about all the holidays they do and don’t celebrate, what foods they might have on special occasions).
- Use a “getting to know you” survey to discuss family culture.
- Connect families with others who share the same language/culture.
- Hire staff from the community.
- Create cultural/linguistic matches between families and ELSs.
- For assessments: Introduce the assessment beforehand in a video in the family’s language to show how it is fun, helpful, and useful.

Activities:

- Provide books and guide sheets in home language.
- Invite parents to read books in their home language.
- Incorporate objects and routine from the home into the visit.
- Introduce books that represent diverse cultures, including characters of multiple races.
- Use photos of the families served in printed materials.
- Use VISM to discuss signs & sounds in the unique family’s neighborhood.
- Add art projects that promote diversity.
- Rename characters in the book to represent the culture or family members.
- Provide themed activity packs to celebrate culture-specific holidays and family traditions.
- Ask the families to sing songs from their culture in their language, ask families to video themselves singing a nursery rhyme or songs from their culture.
- Use books that illustrate and honor the storytelling traditions of different cultures and invite parents to share their storytelling traditions and stories.
- Use books that illustrate the importance of cultural roots (e.g., “Feast for 10” illustrates the aspects of culture among some African families living in America).
- Invite parents to talk about their culture: learning experiences from home country; experiences with reading and play; routines for comforting and guiding children; songs they use to soothe; words used to support children’s social-emotional development; what they enjoy doing together.
- Share the diversity of vocabulary words when different names for the same thing are used (e.g., *popcorn*, *crispetas*, *cotufas*).
- Work with the family to create a treasure hunt, being sure to select items that might be unique to their culture or community.

Multicultural toys:

- Complete Family set by Melissa & Doug
- Lil Loteria - A bilingual picture word bingo game
- Crayola, Colors of the World – Skin Tone Crayons
- Open-ended materials like play food, art materials, and instruments all leave room for open-ended discussions about culture.

Vendors

[Lil' Libros](#) - Spanish language and Latinx authors

[Babl Books](#) for bilingual books

[Barefoot Books](#) - Spanish language and Latinx authors

Barnes and Noble – Local stores can help with discounts on large orders

[Book Depository](#)

[Books4School](#) for bilingual books

[Books by the Bushel](#)

[Chinese Books for Children](#) - Books featuring Chinese authors, available in multiple Chinese languages

[Chinese Sprout](#) - Books featuring Chinese authors, available in multiple Chinese languages

[Educational Toys](#) for ordering in Ireland

[Free Spirit Publishing](#)

[First Book](#) – Low-cost books, some multicultural titles

[Kids Books](#)

[Language Lizard](#) - Books in over 50 languages

[Native Northwest](#) - Indigenous Pacific Northwest books and materials

[Reading Warehouse](#)

[Scholastic and Scholastic Diversity Collection](#)

[Star Bright Books](#)

[Syncretic Press](#) - Spanish language and Latinx authors

[Toka Box](#) - Books featuring South Asian and Indian authors

[Tulika Books](#) – Publisher and vendor featuring South Asian and Indian authors

Other Resources

[Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors](#) - Spanish language and Latinx

[Colorín Colorado](#) - Serving educators and families of English Language Learners (ELLs)

[Colours of Us](#) - Native American Children's Books

[Diverse Books](#) - Resources on diverse books for parents, educators, librarians.

[First Book Stories for All Project](#) - Curates high-quality books representing diverse characters, voices, and life circumstances, making them available and affordable to educators

[Kids Reading Armenian](#)

[La Fuerza de Familias](#) - Resources for Spanish speaking families

[Las Ruedas del Autobus](#) sung by La Familia Amador

[Lee and Low](#) - Spanish language and Latinx materials

[Jbrary](#) - A library of story time resources for professionals working with children

[Jose Luis Orozco Music](#) - Spanish language and Latinx materials

[Mommy's Khimar](#) - Read aloud with author

[Native Lands](#) - Use this resource to see what native lands you are currently living on

[Pat Mora Books](#) - Spanish language and Latinx authors

[Social Justice Books](#) - Identifies and promotes the best multicultural and social justice children's books, as well as articles and books for educator

Windows, Mirrors, and Doors series on the ParentChild+ YouTube channel:

- [Asian and Asian American Representation in Children's Books](#)
- [Arab American & Muslim Representation in Children's Literature](#)
- [The Importance of First Nations Representation in Children's Literature](#)
- [Black and African American Representation in Children's Books](#)
- [Latinx Representation in Children's Books](#)
- [Representation of People with Disabilities in Children's Books](#)