

ParentChild+

Equal Possibilities From The Start

WHY CHOOSE ANTI-BIAS BOOKS?

ParentChild+ is committed to ensuring that all children have access to the best early childhood education materials currently available. As society evolves, and the families we serve become increasingly diverse, it is imperative for organizations supporting children and families to engage in continuous quality improvement. Recent research has brought to light the lack of diversity and inclusivity in educational materials. It is our goal to challenge this trend and provide the ParentChild+ community with the tools needed to enrich the lives of families by sharing materials that are diverse, inclusive, and encompass the values and mission of our program.

Contrary to popular opinion, children begin to notice race and skin color as early as six months of age. They draw their conclusions from their world: people around them, books they read, and toys they play with. Children and families need to see themselves and their communities reflected in their books and toys. Program materials should not only be a vehicle for increasing parent-child interaction and improving school readiness skills, but also tools for raising strong, confident, and self-assured individuals.

The following checklist is a guide to help you select anti-bias books. The more boxes you are able to check off, the more anti-biased the book. We understand that not all the books in your library will check all the boxes. However, your library should be a well-rounded representation of accurate and respectful books that serve a myriad of purposes.

"Why?" Statement and Checklist created by:
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To learn more:

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

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ANTI-BIAS BOOK CHECKLIST

ALL BOOKS SHOULD BE

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

IN YOUR LIBRARY, BOOKS SHOULD

- INCLUDE PEOPLE, NOT JUST ANIMALS
- SHOW FAMILIES AND LIFESTYLES THAT REPRESENT YOUR PROGRAM FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITY
- 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 PEOPLE GROUPS
- PORTRAY ACTION TOWARD CHANGE

ALSO CONSIDER

- CHOOSING BOOKS WITH A RECENT PUBLICATION DATE (THAT MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT OUR DIVERSE SOCIETY)

ANTI-BIAS TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

STEREOTYPE

According to Teaching for Change, 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

According to Teaching for Change, a word is loaded when it "demeans or makes people invisible because of their identities." One example is the use of the word "man" to stand for women - although the opposite never occurs. Here are some examples of ways to avoid sexist language: using "community" instead of "brotherhood" and "firefighters" instead of "firemen." Loaded adjectives carry racist messages, including: "savage," "primitive," and "backward." Books should use language that describes characters in a constructive and positive manner.

To learn more:

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

BEING INTENTIONAL ABOUT SELECTING VISMS

Compiled by Jackie Herrera, Vanessa Ruiz, Margarita Chan, and Malkia Singleton Ofori-Agyekum, Jessica Faith, and Michele Morrison

It is critical that we in the home visiting field are all intentional about selecting books and toys brought into families' homes, ensuring that they reflect their cultures and values. It is not only important that children and families see themselves and communities in the materials brought into homes – such as books, puzzles, and games – but also that they see themselves in the authors and illustrators of these books.

These peer suggested VISM resources below are shared and sourced from ParentChild+ sites across the country. This is a first step towards building a curriculum of books and toys 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, and,
- Most importantly, are recommended by ParentChild+ site staff.

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

* Please note: The emphasis on using titles by authors and illustrators of color is both to elevate voices that have been silenced for far too long and to ensure that our families' experiences 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, we have also included a few books written by white authors that, to the best of our knowledge, have accurately and respectfully represented their characters while we wait for the access gap to shrink.

CYCLE 1 BOOKS

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin (Taiwanese American author and characters)

Ammachi's Glasses by Priya Kuriyan (Indian author and characters, Wordless book)

Baby Goes to Market by Alinuke and Angela Brooksbank (Black author and characters)

Banana for Two by Ellen Mayer (Asian illustrator and characters, available in several languages, part of a series)

Bee-Bim Bop! Paperback by Linda Sue Park (Korean American author and characters)

Book Fiesta by Pat Mora and illustrated by Rafael Lopez (Latinx author, illustrator and characters, available in Spanish)

Bring in the New Year 迎接新的一年 by Grace Lin (Taiwanese American author and characters)

Dim Sum for Everyone by Grace Lin (Taiwanese American author, Chinese/English languages)

Dragon Dance 舞龙 by Karen Katz (Chinese/English language)

Eva the Afro-Latina by Eva Sarai Johnson (Black/Latinx author and characters)

Every Little Thing by Cedella Marly (Black author and characters)

Feast For 10 by Cathryn Falwell (White author, available in English/Spanish, Black characters)

Golden Blooms: Celebrating Tet-Vietnamese Lunar New Year by YT Tran (Vietnamese American author, English language)

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors by Hena Khan (Pakistani-American author)

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry (Black author and characters)

Happy Hair by Mechal Renee Roe (Black author and characters)

I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont (White author, Black characters)

Las Ruedas del Autobus sung by La Familia Amador (Latinx author and characters, available in Spanish)

Little Humans by Brandon Stanton (White author, illustrations are photos of diverse children)

Maharani the Cow by Christy Shoba Sudhir (Indian author and characters)

Mina's Scavenger Hunt by Katrina Liu (Chinese American author, Bilingual Chinese with Pinyin and English)

My First Book of Vietnamese Words: An ABC Rhyming Book of Vietnamese Language and Culture by Phuoc Thi Minh Tran (Vietnamese American author and characters)

My First Chinese New Year by Karen Katz (White author, Asian characters)

One Love by Cedella Marley (Black author and characters)

Please, Baby, Please by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee (Black author and characters)

Please, Puppy, Please by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee (Black author and characters)

Say Hello! by Rachel Isadora (characters from multiple ethnicities)

Sing' n Learn Vietnamese by Hop Thi Nguyen (Vietnamese author and characters)

The Giraffe That Ate the Moon by Aralie Rangel (Black author, translated into multiple languages)

The Swirling Hijaab by Na'ima bint Robert (Black-Muslim author, translated into multiple languages)

Wheels on the Tuk Tuk by by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal (Indian, South Asian authors and characters)

Un Elefante by **Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein** (Latinx author, illustrator, and characters, available in Spanish)

CYCLE 2 BOOKS

Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao by Kat Zhang (Chinese American author and characters)

Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon by Kat Zhang (Chinese American author and characters)

Bippity Bop Barbershop by Natasha Tarpley (Black author, illustrator, and characters)

Celebrating the Chinese New Year 庆祝中国新年 by Sanmu Tang (Chinese author and characters, available in Chinese)

Colourful Rainy Day 七彩下雨天 by Jin Jinghua (Chinese author and characters, available in Chinese)

Dreamers/Soñadores by Yuyi Morales (Latinx author and characters, available in Spanish)

Dumpling Soup 餃子湯 by Jama Kim Rattigan (Chinese author and characters, available in English/Chinese)

Evelyn del Rey is Moving Away by Meg Medina (Black author, Latinx and Black characters, available in Spanish)

Eyes that Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho (Chinese American author and characters)

Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne (White author, Black characters, available in several languages)

Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho and Holly Meade (Thai author and characters)

I Am Enough by Grace Byers (Black author and characters)

I Love My Hair! by Natasha Tarpley (Black author and characters)

I'll Build You a Bookcase by Jean Ciborowski Fahey (Black author and characters)

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña (Latinx author, Black and Latinx characters, available in Spanish)

Little Anbu/Chhota Anbu by Christy Shoba Sudhir (Indian author and characters, available in English-Hindi)

Lola at the Library by Anna McQuinn (White author, Black characters, available in Spanish-English. This book is a part of a series.)

Lulu the One and Only by Lynnette Mawhinney (Black, bi-racial author and bi-racial characters)

Mum, Let's buy Green Beans! 妈妈, 买绿豆! by Zeng Yang Qing (Chinese author and character, available in Chinese/English)

Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina (Latinx author and characters, available in Spanish)

My Heart Fills with Happiness by Julie Flett (Native American author)

Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow (Black author and characters)

P Is for Poppadoms!: An Indian Alphabet Book by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal (Indian-South Asian author and characters)

¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta? / What Can You Do with a Paleta? by Carmen Tafolla (Latinx author, illustrator, and characters, English and Spanish)

Quinto's Neighborhood by Ina Cumpiano (Latinx author and characters, also available in Spanish)

Red is a Dragon by Grace Lin (Taiwanese American author and characters)

Round is a Tortilla by Roseanne Greenfield Thong (Latinx illustrator, available in Spanish)

Saturday by Oge Mora (Black author and characters)

Shubh Diwali! by Chitra Soundar and Charlene Chua (Indian, South Asian author and characters)

Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats (White author, Black characters, available in Spanish-English))

Thank You Omu! by Oge Mora (Black author and characters)

The Crown is Yours by Khalil Munir (Black author and characters, child with dyslexia)

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family by Ibtihaj Muhammad (Muslim-American author)

The Ugly Vegetables 难看的蔬菜 by Grace Lin (Chinese American author and characters, available in Chinese/English)

The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes (Black author and characters)

Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories by Phuoc Thi Minh Tran (Vietnamese author and characters, available in Vietnamese-English)

When I Close My Eyes by Ty Allan Jackson (Black author and characters)

VENDORS

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

[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

[Babl Books](#) 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

[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](#): - Books featuring South Asian and Indian authors, available in multiple South Asian languages

ACTIVITIES + IDEAS: BUILDING ON CULTURE

Recruitment and Enrollment

- Host playgroups in other languages open to the community
- For assessments: Introduce the assessment beforehand in a video in the family's language to show how it is fun, helpful, and useful.
- Use a "getting to know you" survey to discuss the culture as the ELS and family feel comfortable.
- During enrollment, make every effort to learn what is unique about the family (e.g., finding out about all the holidays they do and don't celebrate, what foods they might have on special occasions).
- Connect families with others who share the same language/culture.
- Hire staff from the community.
- Create cultural matches between families and ELSs.

VISMs and Activities

- Introduce books that represent the culture, including characters of multiple races.
- Use photos of our families in printed materials.
- Provide books and guide sheets in home language.
- Invite parents to read books in their home language.
- Incorporate objects from the home into the visit.
- 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 how our African ancestors used to sit down around the fire and tell stories. Use books that illustrate the importance of African culture among African families living in America (e.g., "Feast for 10").
- Using VISM to discuss signs & sounds in the family's neighborhood.
- Add art projects that promote diversity.
- Invite parents to talk about their own culture: their own school and learning experience; thoughts about reading and playing with children; routines for comforting and guiding their child; songs they use to soothe; words used to help children learn acceptable behaviors; what they enjoy doing together for fun
- 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
- Art related VISMS, play food and instruments all leave room for discussions about culture

OTHER RESOURCES

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

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

[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

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

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

[Mommy's Khimar](#) by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow - Read aloud with author

[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 educators