

Introduction: About the Book List

This list is designed to support early childhood educators in exploring diversity with young children. It includes books that address a wide range of differences, both explicitly and implicitly, across areas such as culture, language, family structures, ability, gender, sexuality, and socioeconomic background. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive selection, but a starting point, and we encourage you to continue developing your own justice-oriented library.

How the books were selected

We chose books for their potential to encourage meaningful conversations about fairness, belonging, and difference. Priority was given to stories that treat diverse identities and experiences with respect, avoid reinforcing stereotypes, and are appropriate for early childhood settings. We also considered whether the books offer opportunities for reflection and discussion. These same criteria are reflected in the checklist for selecting anti-bias children's books [\[ADD LINK HERE\]](#), which can support you in selecting and reviewing books for your own context.

Explicit and implicit approaches

This list includes both explicit and implicit books, which serve complementary purposes and together support an approach that not only addresses difference but also normalizes diversity as part of everyday life.

- **Explicit books** directly address social injustices and biases that children encounter in their everyday lives. Rather than simply pointing out difference, they focus on unfair treatment, such as exclusion, discrimination, or prejudice, and encourage children to recognize and question inequality.
- **Implicit books** take a more indirect approach by presenting diverse characters and experiences as a natural part of everyday life, without making difference the central theme. In doing so, they help normalize what often falls outside dominant expectations.

A note on limitations

This list is not exhaustive, and no book is without limitations. Some may offer only partial perspectives, leave out certain experiences, or still include unintended stereotypes. We encourage you to review each book critically before using it.

Your professional judgment

You know the children in your care best. We trust you to choose which books to use, when to use them, and how to guide the conversations they inspire. What works well in one setting may need adapting, or may not be appropriate, in another. For those who find it helpful, the checklist [\[ADD LINK HERE\]](#) offers a more structured way to support this process.

We also invite you to share your own book recommendations with us via our contact page. Suggestions that align with the project's criteria may be reviewed and included in future updates to the list.

We hope this list serves as a helpful starting point for your work.