Programming with Intent

Planning storytimes through an equity, diversity and inclusion framework

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EDI Storytimes

• Why Diversity Matters
• Benefits of Inclusion
• Evaluating Materials
• Planning Your Storytime
• Connect Your Audience
Why Diversity Matters

A More Diverse Nation
For the First Time, More Than 50 Percent of Children Under Age 5 are Minorities

Race and Ethnicity, Children Under 5

- White: 49.8%
- Hispanic: 25.8%
- Black: 13.8%
- Asian: 4.8%
- Two or more races: 4.7%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.8%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Minority is defined in this figure as any group other than single-race non-Hispanic white.
DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN’S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison:
ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp

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Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors

REFLECT OURSELVES  EXPAND OUR VIEWS  EXPERIENCE OTHER’S PERSPECTIVES

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop
Evaluating Diverse Materials

- Accuracy and Authenticity
- Stereotypes and Tokenism
- Character Agency
- Time Period
- #OwnVoices
The Diversity Gap in Children’s Books
24 Years ★ 1994–2017

Percentage of children’s books by and/or about people of color & Native people

37% of the US population are people of color. 13% of children’s books in the past 24 years contain multicultural content.

Did you know?
Black, Latino, and Native authors combined wrote only 7% of the new children’s books published in 2017.

7%  
276 of 3700
Be Intentional

- Start planning with the books and not around a theme
- Do a diversity audit, create a representation goal
- Be authentic to yourself and your community
Book Resources

- ourstory.diversebooks.org
- multiculturalchildrensbookday.com
- thebrownbookshelf.com
- cbcdiversity.com
- ccbc.education.wisc.edu
- americanindiansinchildrensliterature.com
- Booksforlittles.com
Beyond Books

Multilingual songs, rhymes
- Nonwestern music
- Instrumentals and chants

Teach simple words in other languages
- ASL
- Counting
- Hello/Goodbye
Multilingual Tips

- Look for translations of books and songs that are familiar
- Transpose one or two words from a nursery rhyme into another language
- Translate a simple felt story into vocabulary games
- Play games that help practice words
- Use digital media for videos and songs
Song/Rhyme Resources

storyblocks.org
vimeo.com/channels/embracingdiversity
bpl.bc.ca/kids/embracing-diversity/more-songs-and-rhymes
jbrary.com/multilingual-storytimes-beginners-guide
mamalisa.com
Zoom, zoom, zoom
Nous allons a la lune
Zoom, zoom, zoom
Nous allons a la lune
Si vous voulez voyager
Monter sur ma fuseille
Zoom, zoom, zoom
Nous allons a la lune
Dans 5 4 3 2 1
Boum!
Connect Your Audience

Creates ownership
Positive role modeling
Increases engagement
Outcomes for Children

• Develop positive social identities
• Exposed to accurate historical and cultural knowledge that affirm self identities
• Be comfortable with people who are both similar to and different from them
• Stimulate curiosity about lived experiences of others in an open-minded way
EDI Resources

• Project READY: Reimagining Equity & Access for Diverse Youth
• Advancing Racial Equity In Public Libraries – Government Alliance on Race & Equity
• Advancing Diversity in Public Libraries – ALA/PLA Emerging Leaders Project
• Fakequity Blog
• Teaching Tolerance
Thank You!

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