

Theme: Culturally Inclusive Books

Date: January 29, 2021

Hello StrongStart friends,

Today's email is from Teacher Linda (from Grenfell).



We hope you enjoyed all the books from the last two posts. Today, we focus on what we do when we realize classic children's books are racist? What about our childhood favourites with questionable attitudes and themes? Here's some advice from children's book author, Grace Lin. She says that while we can love classic books, we don't always have to agree with it. "Read them, share them but make sure you talk to your kids about them" (source: <https://youtu.be/R5iwq4mENFw>)

Kids as young as six months old can recognize race-based differences. Between the ages of two and four, children begin to internalize racial bias (American Academy of Pediatrics). Modeling anti-racist behavior and talking to your children about what they are reading and what they are seeing in the world is a valuable and ongoing conversation.

Here are some books that showcase acceptance, kindness and understanding. These books teach us that we are all unique and special and everyone should be valued.



- Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi - https://youtu.be/Gezd_Y_Kqc
- Fry Bread (A Native American Family Story) by Kevin Noble Maillard - <https://youtu.be/MibEeGiFThM>
- Grandma's Purse by Vanessa Brantley-Newton - <https://youtu.be/UoePmxGXp-I>
- All are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold - <https://youtu.be/rFvbOAvWTYA>

After checking out the books, here's an art activity you can do.



Instructions:

- Gather some paper plates, markers and decorative supplies like yarn, googly eyes, buttons, etc.
- Discuss with your child how they look (e.g., hair, eye and skin colour) and how they may look different from their friends. Regardless of how you look, we are all wonderful!

Another way to experience another culture is through songs. In the classroom, greeting each other in different languages in the morning is fun way to learn new words and phrases. Encourage young children to greet their friends in a different language!



Recognizing that not everyone speaks the same language is one of the first steps in understanding cultural differences. When we learn about other languages, we will start to realize that language is not a barrier but a bridge to understanding other cultures! You can make cards with greetings in different languages. Once you've learned the new vocabulary, practice and model the words/sounds with your child. Together, you can listen to songs that showcase many different languages. Here are a few "Hello Songs" you can try:

- Preschool Hello Song in 18 Different Languages - <https://youtu.be/g89HSBVhcf4>
- Hello around the World - <https://youtu.be/D1siRLqPvVO>
- Hello around the World by Juny & Tony - <https://youtu.be/472AnCrHYVs>



Vancouver Public Library has Facebook Live Storytimes, Babytime and Toddlertime on Zoom and Virtual Storytime on YouTube.

- **Toddlertime on Zoom:** <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q=Toddler%20Storytime%20on%20Zoom>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VPLKidsGroup/permalink/305851480553261/>
- **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/user/vancouverlibrary