

Diverse and Inclusive Books For Children

Reading diverse and inclusive books is a wonderful way to allow children to see themselves reflected, learn about other people and their experiences, imagine themselves in another place or time, imagine themselves in another person's experiences, recognize our similarities, and celebrate differences.

Reading is more than fundamental. It provides the opportunity to teach our children about kindness, compassion, and empathy for others and that diversity of stories matter. All kids should be able to see themselves as the stars of their own stories. As there is not one type of child, there should not be one type of story.

Read on for a sampling of favorite titles collected by pediatricians to help families select and share books with young children. This list was created in collaboration between Reach Out and Read and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Minority Health, Equity and Inclusion, the Book List Committee of the AAP Council on Early Childhood, and the Reach Out and Read Book Committee.

Birth-12 Months

- *I Will Talk to You, Little One* by Phyllis E. Gran; illustrated by Tomie dePaola (English & Spanish)
- *I Love You Like Sunshine* by Mariana Glusman, MD; photos by Marta Killner, MD (English & Spanish)
- *Global Babies* by The Global Fund for Children (English & English-Spanish bilingual)
- *Reach: A Board Book About Curiosity* by Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisovskis
- *Cradle Me* by Debby Slier (English)
- *Baby Says* by John Steptoe (English)
- *Kiss by Kiss / Ocetowina: A Counting Book for Families* by Richard Van Camp (English, Plains Cree)

Toddler 12-36 Months

- *My Heart Fills with Happiness* by Monique Gray Smith; illustrated by Julie Flett (English English-Cree bilingual, English-Ojibwa bilingual, Spanish, French)
- *My Friends / Mis Amigos* by Taro Gomi (English, English-Spanish bilingual)
- *Jazz Baby* by Lisa Wheeler; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie (English)
- *Bee-bim Bop!* by Linda Sue Park; illustrated by Ho Baek Lee (English)
- *Grandma's Tiny House: A Counting Story* by JaNay Brown-Wood; illustrated by Priscilla Burris (English)
- *Brown Baby Lullaby* by Tameka Fryer; illustrated by A.G. Ford. (English with a sprinkling of Spanish)
- *Please, Baby, Please* by Tonya Lewis Lee and Spike Lee; illustrated by Kadir Nelson (English, Spanish)
- *Welcome to the Party* by Gabrielle Union; illustrated by Ashley Evans (English)
- *Say Hello!* by Rachel Isadora (English with a sprinkling of other languages)

Preschool 3-5 Years

- *Be Who You Are!* by Todd Parr (English, French)
- *Round is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes* by Roseanne Thong; illustrated by Grace Lin (English)

- *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers; illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo (English)
- *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry; illustrated by Vashti Harrison (English, French)
- *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match* by Monica Brown; illustrated by Sara Palacios (English, English-Spanish bilingual)
- *The Twins' Blanket* by Hyewon Yum (English)
- *Julian Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love (English, Catalan, Portuguese, Italian, Chinese, Danish, German, Spanish, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish, French, Japanese, Dutch, Korean)
- *A Kids Book About Racism* by Jelani Memory (English)
- *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell; illustrated by Henry Cole (English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Czech, French, Polish, Basque)
- *Just Because* by Rebecca Elliott (English, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish)
- *Lubna and Pebble* by Wendy Meddour; illustrated by Daniel Egnéus (English)
- *Mommy's Khimar* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow; illustrated by Ebony Glenn (English)
- *You Hold Me Up* by Monique Gray Smith; illustrated by Danielle Daniel (English, Cree)

Adapted from the HealthyChildren.org article *Recommended Reading: Diverse & Inclusive Books For Children* by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Minority Health, Equity and Inclusion, Book List Committee of the AAP Council on Early Childhood, and Reach Out and Read Book Committee (9/15/2021).

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