



DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE BOOKS



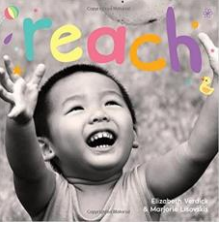
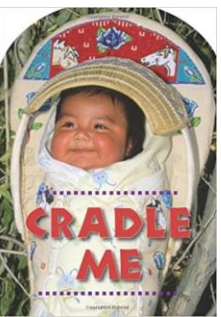
Reading diverse and inclusive books is a wonderful way to allow children to see themselves reflected, learn about other people and their experiences, imagine themselves in another place or time, imagine themselves in another person’s experiences, recognize our similarities, and celebrate differences.

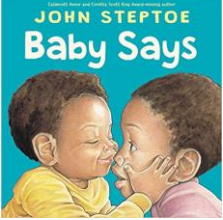

Reading is more than fundamental. It provides the opportunity to teach our children about kindness, compassion and empathy for others, and that diversity of stories matter. All kids should be able to see themselves as the stars of their own stories. As there is not one type of child, there should not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

This list was created in collaboration between 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. It features a sampling of our favorite titles to assist families in selecting books to share with their young children.

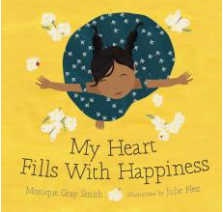
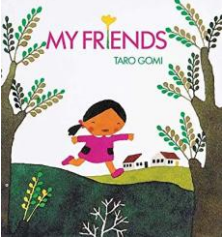
We would also like to thank the following Chicago high school students for their help creating this list: Magda Slowakiewicz, Destyni Harris, and Alyssa Marshall.

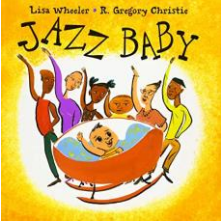
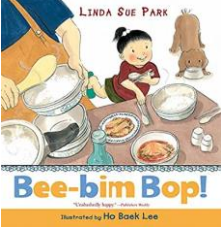
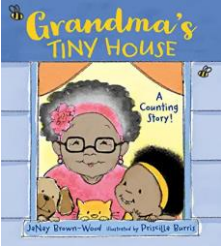
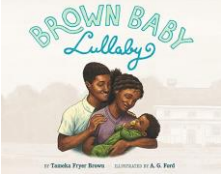

Baby List - Birth to 12 Months				
Cover	Title	Author/ Illustrator	Description	Languages
	I Will Talk to You, Little One	<p>Written by Phyllis E. Grann</p> <p>Illustrated by Tomie dePaola</p>	<p>A delightful book for new parents and caregivers that highlights the importance of talking with their baby from the time they are born to start their journey of lifelong learning. The engaging illustrations feature families from diverse backgrounds as they serve as storytellers for their little ones and transform everyday activities like breakfast and putting groceries away into fun and meaningful learning opportunities.</p>	English and Spanish

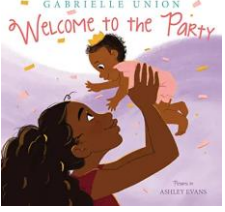
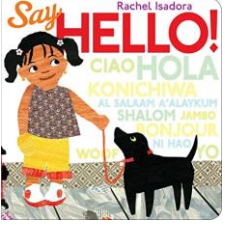
	<p>I Love You Like Sunshine</p>	<p>Written by Mariana Glusman, MD</p> <p>Photographs by Marta Killner, MD</p>	<p>An empowering book for new parents and caregivers on how talking, singing, playing, and reading with their baby optimizes early brain development and builds loving, lifelong relationships. Black-and-white photographs show babies having meaningful moments with their caregivers. These images are designed to engage a baby's natural ability to focus on faces and offer ideas to caregivers in creating their own stories to share with their baby.</p>	<p>English and Spanish</p>
	<p>Global Babies</p>	<p>By The Global Fund For Children</p>	<p>A beautiful book that celebrates the rich heritage of babies from around the world. Babies will especially love looking at the faces of their fellow babies while their parents and caregivers describe each vibrant and colorful cultural setting.</p>	<p>English English-Spanish (bilingual)</p>
	<p>Reach: A Board Book About Curiosity</p>	<p>By Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisovskis</p>	<p>This whimsical book celebrates babies of different ethnicities as they explore their world. Fun, rhyming text coupled with pictures of babies helps parents and caregivers engage their little ones with a better understanding of how they discover through reaching, grabbing and playing.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Cradle Me</p>	<p>By Debby Slier</p>	<p>A beautiful book of bright photographs celebrating babies in traditional Native American cradleboards. The text highlights a feeling or action that encourages families to create their own stories in their family's preferred language.</p>	<p>English, Spanish-English Navajo-English Ojibwe-English</p>

	<p>Baby Says</p>	<p>Written and illustrated by John Steptoe</p>	<p>An endearing book by Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Award-winning author and illustrator, John Steptoe, that tells the story of baby brother and his slightly older preschool brother as they explore, giggle, frown, talk and hug during play time.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Kiss by Kiss/Ocêtoôwina: A Counting Book for Families (Cree and English Edition)</p>	<p>Written by Richard Van Camp Mary Cardinal Collins (Translator)</p>	<p>A sweet counting book that honors families and can be used to reward your little one with kisses as they learn to count.</p>	<p>English-Plains Cree</p>

Toddler List - 12-36 Months

Cover	Title	Author/ Illustrator	Description	Languages
	<p>My Heart Fills With Happiness</p>	<p>Written by Monique Gray Smith Illustrated by Julie Flett</p>	<p>This heartwarming book is filled with gorgeous illustrations that depict First Nation children and their families doing things that make them happy, like holding hands, feeling the sunshine, and telling stories, creating a wonderful reminder about appreciating the small, joyful moments in life.</p>	<p>English English-Cree (bilingual) English-Ojibwa (bilingual) also translated into Spanish, French</p>
	<p>My Friends/ Mis Amigos</p>	<p>Written and illustrated by Taro Gomi</p>	<p>This touching book, with beautiful artwork, follows a little girl as she learns from and develops friendships with the animals, people, and other children around her, and ends with the reader also becoming her friend.</p>	<p>English English-Spanish (bilingual)</p>

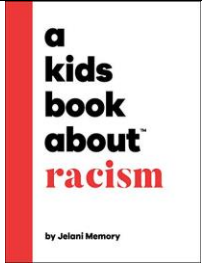
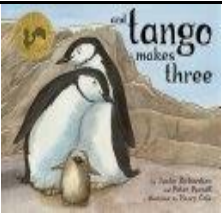
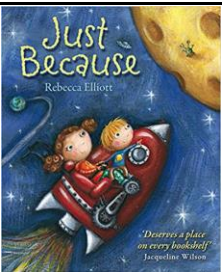

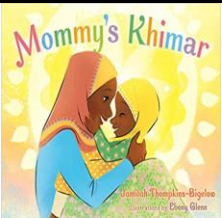
	<p>Jazz Baby</p>	<p>Written by Lisa Wheeler</p> <p>Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie</p>	<p>With its rhythmic sentence structure, and colorful, fluid illustrations, this lively book gets babies to clap their hands, dance, sing along, and squeal with joy.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Bee-bim Bop!</p>	<p>Written by Linda Sue Park</p> <p>Illustrated by Ho Baek Lee</p>	<p>A delightful book that portrays a young child's enthusiasm for making her favorite meal. With rhymes and bright, engaging illustrations the story captures the girl's pride in helping prepare the food as well as her eagerness to enjoy the meal with her family.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Grandma's Tiny House: A Counting Story!</p>	<p>Written by JaNay Brown-Wood</p> <p>Illustrated by Priscilla Burris</p>	<p>A wonderful book that incorporates rhymes to encourage counting. With illustrations to support numbers 1-15, the story not only highlights beautiful relationships between family and friends, but also makes it easy for children to observe how numbers can be represented visually.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Brown Baby Lullaby</p>	<p>Written by Tameka Fryer Brown</p> <p>Illustrated by A.G. Ford.</p>	<p>This amazing story follows a young toddler, his mother, and his father throughout their daily routine, as they play, eat, and read bedtime stories. The sweet illustrations accompanied by the sprinkle of Spanish, beautifully showcase the racial diversity within Latino communities.</p>	<p>English with a sprinkling of Spanish</p>
	<p>Please, Baby, Please</p>	<p>Written by Tonya Lewis Lee and Spike Lee</p> <p>Illustrated by Kadir Nelson</p>	<p>This story follows a young mother pleading with her daughter to share her toys, take a bath, go to bed - the usual toddler battles. Almost every page shows the toddler grinning as she does something she definitely should not be doing. Parents of toddlers will definitely relate to this funny lively book.</p>	<p>English, Spanish</p>

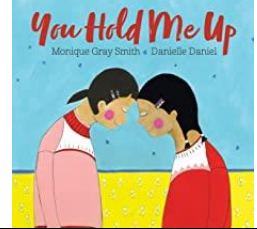
	<p>Welcome to the Party</p>	<p>Written by Gabrielle Union</p> <p>Illustrated by Ashley Evans</p>	<p>This delightful book describes the homecoming of a beautiful baby as her family eagerly awaits. Though the party with balloons and streamers is done, the celebration of family has only begun.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Say Hello!</p>	<p>Written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora</p>	<p>This sweet book depicts a young girl on a walk with her mom through their multicultural neighborhood. Along the way, they meet many people from different backgrounds and learn to say 'hello' in nine different languages. A lovely celebration of diversity!</p>	<p>English with a sprinkling of other languages.</p>

Preschool List - 3-5 Years

Cover	Title	Author/ Illustrator	Description	Languages
	<p>Be Who You Are!</p>	<p>Written and illustrated by Todd Parr</p>	<p>In his signature brightly contrasting colors and shapes, writer/illustrator Todd Parr encourages kids to celebrate all the little differences that make them unique.</p>	<p>English, French</p>
	<p>Round is a Mooncake: A Book Of Shapes</p>	<p>Written by Roseanne Thong</p> <p>Illustrated by Grace Lin</p>	<p>In this lively book a Chinese girl discovers and identifies shapes in everyday objects in the world around her. Colorful illustrations and rhyming text make this a delightful easy read. A short glossary at the end explains the cultural significance of featured objects.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>I Am Enough</p>	<p>Written by Grace Byers</p> <p>Illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo</p>	<p>A beautiful, affirming poem about all the possibilities in childhood and recognizing each person's worth.</p>	<p>English</p>

	<p>Hair Love</p>	<p>Written by Matthew A. Cherry</p> <p>Illustrated by Vashti Harrison</p>	<p>A sweet look at father-daughter bonding as he helps her fix her hair for an extra-special occasion.</p>	<p>English, French</p>
	<p>Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match</p>	<p>Written by Monica Brown</p> <p>Illustrations by Sara Palacios</p>	<p>A story about a creative girl with mixed heritage who likes to "mismatch" her food, her clothes, and everything else. When she experiments with trying to "match" like her friends, she discovers that mismatching makes her <i>her</i>.</p>	<p>English English/Spanish</p>
	<p>The Twins' Blanket</p>	<p>Written and Illustrated by Hyewon Yum</p>	<p>A delightful book about twins who are becoming independent thinkers. Crisp, colorful illustrations and simple text make this an easy read that delivers a simple message about both the frustration and comfort that comes from sharing. Great for families with young siblings or multiples.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Julian Is a Mermaid</p>	<p>Written and illustrated by Jessica Love</p>	<p>A beautifully illustrated story about a young boy who wants to dress as a sparkly mermaid and his Abuela. The story is a celebration of individuality. It explores the themes of love and acceptance, and the power of supporting others in who they are and things they love. A powerful message for children of all ages.</p>	<p>English also translated into Catalan, Portuguese, Italian, Chinese, Danish, German, Spanish, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish, French, Japanese, Dutch and Korean</p>

	<p>A Kids Book About Racism</p>	<p>By Jelani Memory</p>	<p>This book helps families begin a conversation about what racism is and how to recognize it. This book has no illustrations and uses different sizes, colors, and shapes of the words themselves to engage readers of all ages.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>And Tango Makes Three</p>	<p>Written by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell</p> <p>Illustrated by Henry Cole</p>	<p>Based on the true story of Roy and Silo, two male penguins at the New York Central Park Zoo. With the help of a kind zookeeper, they adopt and hatch a motherless egg, creating a nontraditional family. This book reinforces the idea that not all families look the same.</p>	<p>English also translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Czech, French, Polish, Basque</p>
	<p>Just Because</p>	<p>By Rebecca Elliott</p>	<p>This beautiful book celebrates a brother's love for his sister, who has special needs. He delights in talking about their adventures and all the reasons she is so special.</p>	<p>English also translated into Russian, Ukranian, Polish</p>
	<p>Lubna and Pebble</p>	<p>Written by Wendy Meddour</p> <p>Illustrated by Daniel Egnéus</p>	<p>The story of a young refugee girl who finds comfort and a best friend in a pebble she finds on the beach. She befriends another child in the camp and when she and her father are ready to move to her new home, Lubna realizes that he needs her best friend even more than she does.</p>	<p>English</p>
	<p>Mommy's Khimar</p>	<p>Written by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow</p> <p>Illustrated by Ebony Glenn</p>	<p>A young girl plays dress up with her mother's headscarves (khimars). This book celebrates the diversity and loving acceptance within her family as well as her community.</p>	<p>English</p>

	<p>You Hold Me Up</p>	<p>Written by Monique Gray Smith</p> <p>Illustrated by Danielle Daniel</p>	<p>This picture book shows children different ways to show love and encouragement to each other.</p>	<p>English and Cree</p>
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TIPS FOR CHOOSING DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE BOOKS

Look for books that:

- Include characters of color, LGBTQ+ characters, or characters with disabilities—especially books where these are main characters
- Are written or illustrated by a person of color or an LGBTQ+ person
- Feature a person of color on the cover. The characters on the book cover should accurately reflect the characters in the book
- Can serve as both “mirrors” and “windows”—books in which children can see themselves reflected and in which they can learn about others
- Ensure that storylines do not simply repeat the same story we always hear. Do all your books featuring black characters focus on slavery? Are all your LGBTQ+ books coming out stories?
- Feature diverse characters that are not only about race or prejudice

Avoid books that:

- Contain hurtful racial or ethnic stereotypes, or images (e.g. Little House on the Prairie or The Five Chinese Brothers)
- Focus on the 5 F's (food, fashion, folklore, festivals and famous people). While books like these can provide a window into different cultures and traditions, it is important to ensure that the books you select do not reinforce stereotypes or overgeneralize individuals or groups of people. Be sure to also select books that feature diverse groups in everyday settings.

Tips adapted from Lee & Low Books, www.leeandlow.com/educators/articles/checklist-8-steps-to-creating-a-diverse-book-collection