

## **Guidelines for Selecting Inclusive Books for Children**

Selecting the right book is important! The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has some great suggestions for how to find the right book. The website below offers guidance for inclusive literature both at school and at home.

[Reading Your Way to a Culturally Responsive Classroom | NAEYC](#)

### **NAEYC Tips for selecting Diverse Children's Literature**

- Base your selection on quality. Books should not just teach a lesson but should have a good story, high-quality text, and engaging illustrations.
- Choose books that help children see themselves. Include books that mirror different aspects of identity (e.g., race, setting, beliefs) of children in the class, so that they can imagine themselves in the story.
- Choose books that help children expand their understanding of others in this multicultural world. Include books that introduce children to new people, places, and concepts that they may not yet have encountered.
- Look widely for texts. Be alert to new titles related to diversity. In addition, the library can be a great source for out of print titles that appeal to children and relate to urban issues and diversity.
- Use text sets. Expose children to different perspectives. These book collections may be organized by theme or may feature the work of a highly accomplished author or illustrator of color. Great picks for books by Black writers and artists include those by Christopher Myers, Floyd Cooper, Jacqueline Woodson, Ashley Bryan, Jerry Pinkney, Brian Pinkney, and E.B. Lewis.