



Anti-Bias Picture Books for Infants and Toddlers

Marie Masterson, Ph.D. www.mariemasterson.com

Anti-bias teaching with infants and toddlers is supported by picture books that reflect many diversities, including cultural, racial, linguistic, social, age, gender, and abilities. Children are drawn to photos and realistic images that reflect their own lives, with people and experiences they recognize. While images in books for preschool children may seem appropriate, the stories are too complex. Books should be reviewed to ensure quality content that is appropriate for infants and toddlers.

With infants, you may lap read with one or two children at a time. Toddlers will continue to enjoy lap reading or sitting close to you in a small group while facing the book together. Individual use can be encouraged, as children begin to enjoy exploring books and looking at images independently. Infants and toddlers enjoy reading favorite books over and over, with opportunities to explore new options.

When reading with very young infants, point at images and describe what you see. Infants enjoy rhythm patterns, rhyme, and repetition. They respond to your emotional expression, word emphasis, and interaction with them. Older infants and toddlers will respond to question prompts like, “Where is the baby? There is the baby!” New words introduced through reading can be supported with real objects and through daily conversations. Children respond to the positive emotions shared during reading times.

Engage older infants and toddlers by pointing and asking, “What is this?” Then expand on what they say or what they point to. “Yes, that’s curly brown hair. You have curly brown hair, too. Where is your curly hair?” As you look at pictures and relate these to the children and their lives, the reading experiences become personal. The stories and pictures may be funny, soothing, or informative, and you will know they are well-loved when children eagerly point to the photos and want to see and hear more.

The following book list offers some options that support anti-bias teaching and are appropriate for infants and toddlers. You may have other favorites, as well.

Picture Books for Infants and Toddlers

1. All Are Welcome, Alexandra Penfold
2. Anti-Racist Baby, Ibram X. Kendi
3. B is for Baby, Atinuke
4. Babies Around the World, Puck
5. Baby’s Feelings: A First Book of Emotions, Little Hippo Books
6. Baby Young, Gifted, and Black: With a Mirror! Jamia Wilson and Andrea Pippins
7. Baby Goes to Market, Atinuke
8. Bee-bim Bop! Linda Sue Park
9. Besos for Baby (A Little Book of Kisses), Jen Arena
10. Dream Big, Little One Vashti Harrison
11. Everywhere Babies, Susan Meyers
12. Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story, Kevin Noble Mallard (toddler)
13. Global Babies, The Global Fund for Children (Infant/toddler)



14. Hair Love/Amor de pelo, Matthew Cherry
15. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes/Cabeza, Hombros, Piernas, Pies, Annie Kubler
16. Hello Goodbye Dog, Maria Gianferrari
17. I am Whole: A Multi-Racial Children's Book Celebrating Diversity, Language, Race, and Culture, Shola Oz
18. I Like Myself, Karen Beaumont
19. I Love You Sun, I Love You Moon/Te amo Sol/Te amo Luna, Karen Pandell
20. It's OK to Be Different: A Children's Picture Book About Diversity and Kindness, Sharon Purtill
21. Lama Lama Red Pajama/La llama llama rojo pijama, Anna Dewdney
22. Marvelous Me, Lisa, Marie Bullard
23. Mis primeras canciones de cuna en espanol (multiple books with music) Jimeno de la Vega
24. Mommy's Khimar, Jamilah Thompkies-Bigelow (infant/toddler)
25. My Face Book, Starbright Books (Available in multiple languages.)
26. My First Book of Baby Signs: 40 Essential Signs to Learn and Practice, Lane Rebelo
27. My Name is Amautik, Nadia Samuurtok
28. My Neighborhood, Amy Pixton
29. More, More, More Said the Baby, Vera Williams
30. ¡Pío Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes (Rimas Tradicionales en Espanol), Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy
31. Splash! Baby Faces Board Book, Roberta Grobel Intrater
32. Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes, Mem Fox
33. Ten Little Fingers/Tengo Diez Deditos (Spanish and English), Annie Kubler
34. Ten Tiny Babies, Karen Katz
35. The Last Stop On Market Street Matt de la Pena (toddler)
36. The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family, Ibtihaj Muhammad (toddler)
37. The Skin You Live In, Michael Tyler
38. The Very Hungry Caterpillar/La orunga muy hambrienta, Eric Carl
39. The Wonderful Things You Will Be, Emily Winfield Martin
40. One Love, Bob and Cedella Marley
41. Our Skin: A First Conversation about Race, Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli (toddler)
42. Please Baby, Please! Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee
43. Say Hello! Rachel Isadora
44. Shades of People, by Shelley Rotner
45. Skin Like Mine, LaTashia Perry
46. Ten Tiny Babies (Karen Katz)
47. We are Family, Patricia Hegarty
48. We're Different, We're the Same and We're All Wonderful, Sesame Street
49. What I like about Me: A Book Celebrating Differences, Allia Zobel Nolan
50. Whose Toes Are Those? Jabari Asim

Other book lists for toddlers are available at www.mariemasterson.com