



## January spotlight on family conversations around diversity

As adults, we are models for our children, and we help shape their thoughts and behaviors. By bringing attention to diversity and examining our own biases, we can teach them to place value on people's bodies and minds regardless of their skin color, gender, physical abilities, or culture.

Celebrating diversity not only leads children to appreciate differences but can also help their self-esteem and self-identity by cultivating pride in who they are and in their family history and traditions. Literature can be an excellent tool for initiating conversations about diversity and equity.

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### Resources To Get You Started!

The poem and discussion questions below offer a great way to start a conversation with your child about diversity.

"The Crayon Box That Talked"

By Shane Derolf

*Wouldn't it be terrible?*

*Wouldn't it be sad?*

*If just one single color  
was the color that we had?*

*If everything was purple?  
Or red? Or blue? Or green?*

*If yellow, pink, or orange  
was all that could be seen?*

*Can you just imagine how dull  
the world would be if just one single color  
was all we got to see?*

## Discussion Questions

- What if everyone in the world was exactly the same? If they all looked the same, talked the same, shared the same views, practices, and traditions, what kind of world would it be? Do you think this would be a place you'd want to live in? Why or why not?
  - Have you met people who were different from you? How did you feel/react when you first met them?
  - What can we learn from people with different traditions, beliefs, and values?
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**Read about it! Put titles in Google books to see where they are available!**



“All Are Welcome” by Alexandra Penfold



“Julian is a Mermaid” by Jessica Love



“Whoever You Are” by Mem Fox



“The Same But Different Too” by Karl Newson



“This Love” by Isabel Otter



“All The Ways To Be Smart” by Davina Bell

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The Diversity Committee recognizes that some conversations with children about diversity of thought and current events can be difficult. Here are a few resources:

“How to talk to children about the Capitol riots: An age by age guide”

<https://www.today.com/parents/how-talk-children-about-capitol-riots-age-age-t205304>

“How to talk to kids about the Riots at the U.S. Capitol” This article includes several resources for parents and educators.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/congress-electoral-college-tally-live-updates/2021/01/07/954415771/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-the-riots-at-the-u-s-capitol>

“What to say to kids when the news is scary.” This is an older article, but still helpful!

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716704917/when-the-news-is-scary-what-to-say-to-kids>

Questions? Do you have a topic you would like to see covered in the Diversity Spotlight? Would you like to contribute to the Diversity Spotlight?

Email Brenda Anderson at [bka328@yahoo.com](mailto:bka328@yahoo.com)