



# Using Books to Support Conversations about Diversity and Race

---

Children use books as a way to learn both about themselves and the world around them. Books are a way to expose children to people and families both similar to and different from their own. By reading a variety of diverse books to your children, you are opening the door for important conversations about diversity and race. Books teach children who is important, who matters, and who is visible in our world. The following graphic depicts the overwhelming lack of diversity and representation in children's books.

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/diversity-graphic/>

---

## **How do I decide what books to purchase and read to my child?**

There are a variety of factors to consider when choosing books to read to your child. The following websites can guide you to building a diverse, anti-bias book collection.

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/guide-for-selecting-anti-bias-childrens-books/>

<https://www.theconsciouskid.org/>

The following websites also provide lists of high-quality, anti-bias books for children of varying ages.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/22/books/23racebooks.html>

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/>

---

## **What about the books I already have at my home? Can I still read them?**

Yes, you can continue to read books that you have at your home. These suggestions do not mean that you need to get rid of the books that you have or stop reading your child's favorite books. However, it may be beneficial to look through the current collection that you have with a more critical lense. Please visit the link below for suggestions about how to examine the books in your home library:

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/selecting-and-rating-titles-for-social-justice-books/>

---

**What if my child doesn't ask questions or make comments while reading diverse books?  
Should I bring up the topic?**

Yes. It is important to use these natural opportunities to point out differences and have intentional conversations with your child about race and diversity. For some general suggestions for leading these discussions with your child please visit the link below:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/emotional-wellness/Building-Resilience/Pages/Talking-to-Children-About-Racial-Bias.aspx>

The resource page titled 'How to Talk to Your Child About Race and Racism has many more suggestions about how to start these conversations with your child in appropriate ways.

