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| **The Right Stuff****Resources to Help Realize the** **Promise of Each Vermont Child**Colorful star |  |
| **Issue No. 18 February 2018** **Featured Topic: Children’s Books That Reflect Each and Every Child and Family***An effective strategy for supporting children is using images and materials that positively display and depict the diverse lives, cultures, and circumstances of those children and their families. Children’s books provide the opportunity to share and discuss many aspects of individuality and diversity. Here are some resources to help you to think about, evaluate, locate, and use books that reflect each and every child.***It’s Hard to Be What You Can’t See (0-9)**[**https://www.huffingtonpost.com/marian-wright-edelman/its-hard-to-be-what-you-c\_b\_8022776.html**](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/marian-wright-edelman/its-hard-to-be-what-you-c_b_8022776.html)*This essay by Marian Wright Edelman highlights the importance of children of color seeing themselves in the books they read. Just as importantly, says Edelman, “***all** *children need to be exposed to a wide range of books that reflect the true diversity of our nation and world as they really are.” Read the essay to learn more.***Diverse Book Finder (0-9)**[**https://diversebookfinder.org/**](https://diversebookfinder.org/)*This website was created to make sure each child can find him/herself reflected and celebrated in libraries, schools and homes across the nation. The collection may be searched by key word or by accessing curated lists on topics that range from oppression and skin tone to religion and adoption. Search, for example, under “SES struggle” for countless stories of children and families for whom poverty is a challenge. The site also includes a list of articles, videos, and blogs about the importance of and need for multicultural children’s books (*[**https://diversebookfinder.org/related-readings/**](https://diversebookfinder.org/related-readings/)*).* **See What We See (3-9)**[**https://socialjusticebooks.org/about/see-what-we-see/**](https://socialjusticebooks.org/about/see-what-we-see/)*The aim of this website is to* ***promote engaging books*** *for young readers that accurately reflect the many cultures, distinct traditions, and varied circumstances in historical and contemporary contexts. The site includes a guide for selecting anti-bias children’s books, and provides ratings to guide users in selecting books that avoid stereotypes and other negative features. Search by rating, reading level, theme, title, or source to find annotated listings from among which to choose.***Children's Books that Include Diverse Family Structures (0-9)**[**http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/lgbt-children-books.pdf**](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/lgbt-children-books.pdf)*This resource is part of a series developed to support programs in partnering with parents, family members, and guardians who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT). You will also find information to create an early childhood setting that is welcoming for all children and families.* **Exploring Social Studies Through Children's Books**  **(3-9)** [**http://fliphtml5.com/nfys/dsvt**](http://fliphtml5.com/nfys/dsvt)*Children’s books offer an excellent way for teachers and children to explore the many themes of social studies. Through books children can learn about their own culture and family, cultures around the world, geography, history, community, and more. This article shares a selection of books touching on these themes.***Reading Your Way to a Culturally Responsive Classroom (4-9)**[**https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2016/culturally-responsive-classroom**](https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2016/culturally-responsive-classroom)*This article highlights ways early childhood educators can use race-related teaching practices to address race/racism while supporting literacy development. It also suggests ways teachers can use children’s literature to welcome discussion.***Eleven Children’s Books that Teach Inclusion** **(3-9)**[**https://www.romper.com/p/11-childrens-books-that-teach-inclusion-9541**](https://www.romper.com/p/11-childrens-books-that-teach-inclusion-9541)*Here is a collection of books that are available to help teach children the importance of accepting everyone for who they are, and understanding that everyone has different abilities.***Culturally Relevant Books [for Young Children Who Are Dual Language Learners/DLLs] (4-9)** [**http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/culturally-relevant-books-ell-classroom**](http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/culturally-relevant-books-ell-classroom)*This website offers a comprehensive set of tips for choosing culturally relevant books for classrooms that include young children who are dual language learners. The authors offer a number of book recommendations and a rubric that teachers and families can use to determine whether a book is culturally relevant.***12 Children’s Books that Challenge Traditional Gender Roles (3-9)**[**http://humaneeducation.org/blog/2012/06/11/12-childrens-picture-books-that-challenge-traditional-gender-roles/**](http://humaneeducation.org/blog/2012/06/11/12-childrens-picture-books-that-challenge-traditional-gender-roles/)*While all children naturally develop gender identity, classroom demographics and teacher practices can make a big difference in how and whether students develop sex-based stereotypes and prejudices. In honor of celebrating gender diversity, here are twelve children’s picture books that challenge traditional gender roles.***Picture Books That Teach Kids to Combat Racism (4-9)**[***https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/picture-books-that-teach-kids-to-combat-racism/***](https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/picture-books-that-teach-kids-to-combat-racism/)*Books are a great teaching tool, especially when it comes to talking to kids about tough subjects. Families may struggle with talking to their children about institutionalized racism and prejudice. Hopefully these books about racism will help to create some open and honest dialogue.***Scaffolding with Storybooks: A Guide for Enhancing Young Children’s Language and Literacy Achievement (2-9)** [**https://earlychildhood.ehe.osu.edu/files/2016/04/Scaffolding-with-Storybooks.pdf**](https://earlychildhood.ehe.osu.edu/files/2016/04/Scaffolding-with-Storybooks.pdf)*If you’d like some clear, evidence-based ideas about how to use children’s books to support language and literacy development, look no further. This book is an essential guide for those who understand that interactive book reading is an important context for helping children learn and develop. The activities and approaches we present are applicable to children from toddlerhood through first grade and also may be used to support the reading development of children who are in the early elementary grades and for whom reading is not arriving easily. The topics in this book are particularly relevant to professionals who work with children from early interventionists and pediatricians to nannies and family members. In addition to solid content this publication offers helpful ideas about individual books and how to use them to support any child’s language and literacy trajectory.***Want more resources about children’s books?** Look for 2018 Children’s Book Lists at this website: [**http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/vermont-resource-collections**](http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/vermont-resource-collections) |
| **The Right Stuff** is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features resources for supporting the learning and development of young children who are culturally, linguistically, and individually diverse, birth to Grade 3, and their families. All resources are readily available and free. **The Right Stuff** may be freely shared or reproduced. Past issues are available at [**http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/right-stuff**](http://fpg.unc.edu/presentations/right-stuff) **The Right Stuff** is compiled by Camille Catlett, supported by the Vermont Agency of Education, and funded by the Vermont Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. To receive your copy of The Right Stuff each month, send an email **with no message** to **subscribe-the\_right\_stuff\_listserv@listserv.unc.edu**To suggest resources, please contact Camille Catlett at **camille.catlett@unc.edu** |