

A collaboration of KidsREADY Catawba, Children's Resource Center, & Catawba County Partnership for Children

*Catawba County
Early Childhood Educator
Professional Development
Opportunity*

“Imagining Equity”

What does it mean to teach about equity with children younger than five?

Quality standards for early education settings require classrooms to have multi-ethnic/diverse/inclusive materials available to children in all the learning centers & areas where the children interact and play. That’s an important step, but it is also important not to stop there. Adults who care for our youngest are an important part of planting seeds for a future society that is equity-focused. Adults who provide such intimate care (feeding, clothing, cleaning, and nurturing) must be careful to do so without bias or prejudice.

How can conversations begin that will allow open minds to consider interactions with children while also planting equity seeds in children? Quality children’s books offer an essential strategy to provide context for some of the important themes of equity. Good children’s books provide not only beautiful illustrations but also the opportunity to help the reader (teacher) reflect on their own implicit biases while simultaneously planting equity seeds in the children listening.

What We’re Offering

An Opportunity:

In an effort to create support and a source of teaching practices for Catawba County’s Early Childhood preschool-age workforce, we have created 4 interactive “Book Studies” in which participants will review a selection of children’s books related to 4 themes:

1. Everyone deserves respect, not just our friends.
2. Don’t be colorblind. It’s OK to talk respectfully & with gratitude about how we are different.
3. We are more alike than we are different.
4. It’s good to be different; we are better together.

During each session, the participants can expect to engage in conversations on research-driven information that supports each theme. The goal is to inform pedagogy and practices, as well as to *encourage a safe and interactive space that supports early childhood educators’ current knowledge.*



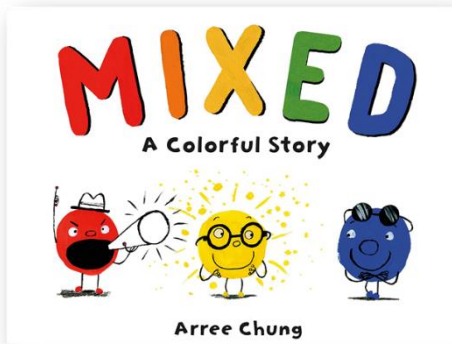
What to Expect

Resources:

- Each participating program will receive a set of the children’s books highlighted in the training, that remain the property of the center and can be used in the classrooms of the teachers who receive the training. Only one set of books is provided for each teacher participant/classroom, based on the age of the children taught.
- An orientation on social justice and representation when utilizing the featured children’s book titles.
- Information and guidance on selecting additional books for their classroom that are culturally appropriate and include authentic representation.

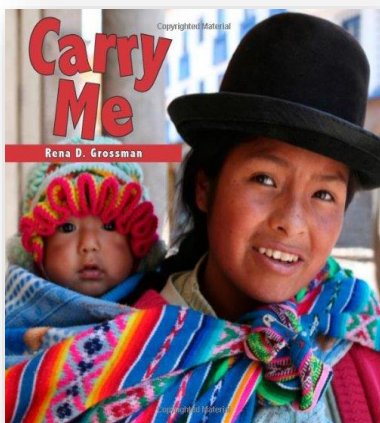
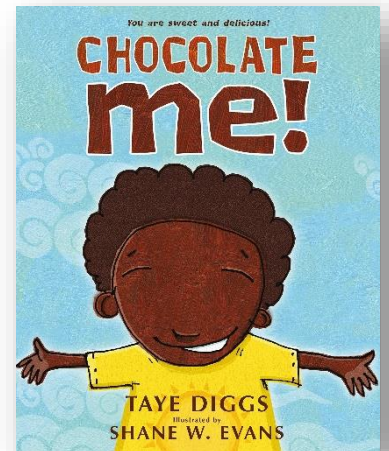
Questions?

Contact La’Gentry Ross, Children’s Resource Center’s Early Childhood Services Coordinator
LROSS@catawbacountync.gov - 828-695-6514



“The old neighborhoods of Redville, Blue Town, & Yellow Heights didn’t make sense anymore. Everyone wanted to live together, so they rebuilt the city.”

“Look!” she says
“Look in the mirror
& love what you see!”



“Carry me the best
way you know how!”

“They belong to the
cheerful chap, sitting on
mommy’s lap.”

