

Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion All Year Long

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Introduction

Many know that Black History is celebrated in the month of February, however many do not know that the celebration of Black history began as just a week-long celebration called Negro History Week. It was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson and became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln who were both instrumental leaders in the history of African Americans.

For young children, learning about similarities and differences occurs every day. Children are sensitive to their environment and encounters; skilled conversations and guidance from adults helps to foster an awareness and appreciation for the diversity in our learning community.

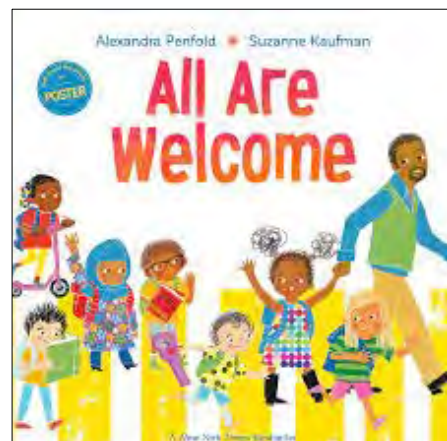
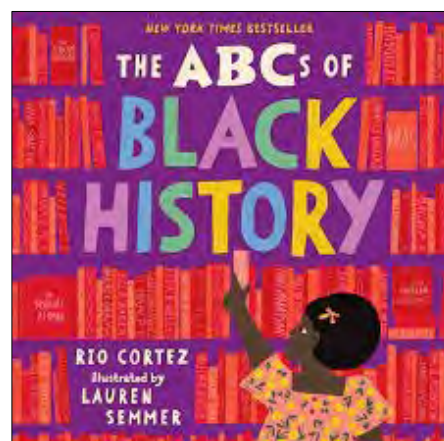
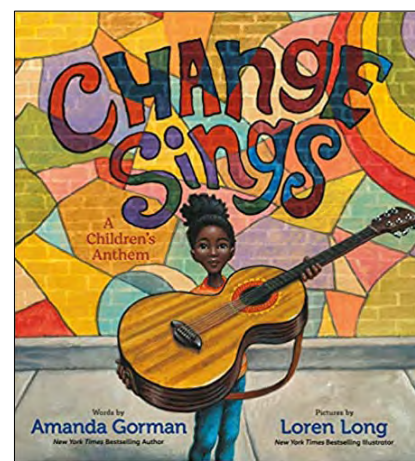
Activities for home and school

- Self portraits using mirrors as a guide
- Exploring instruments and learning where they originated
- Learning familiar words in new languages
- Exploring shades of skin color with different shades of dough
- Writing to a pen pal



Book Selections

Reading books with children is essential to their learning. It is important that children of color see themselves represented in the books that are read to them. These are a few titles that can be read to children at home and at school:



A peek inside our classrooms

Teachers at A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning value diversity and are committed to classroom experiences which highlight diverse backgrounds and cultures. While devising weekly curriculum and planning projects, consideration is given to how the lesson will be experienced by all learners, who is reflected in the lesson materials, how to individualize instruction and how to incorporate feedback from each child into activity extension and improvement.

A teacher's personal story: Dilshad

Teachers all around the world work with students from diverse backgrounds whether it is capabilities, culture, socio-economic status, religion among many others. My personal experience with diversity in the classroom starts with a young toddler exploring baby dolls in the dramatic play area. We had baby dolls from different races for the children to use. I picked a Caucasian baby with a lighter skin tone. The toddler noticed it and ran to bring me an Asian baby with my dark skin tone and said, "Miss Dilshad this is your baby, she looks like you!" The child realized that my skin tone is different from hers just like the baby dolls. We had pictures of our families posted on our classroom walls along with people from different ethnicities and cultures for promoting diversity amongst our community. The toddler pointed to an Indian picture of a woman that looked like me. We talked about where I'm from and why I look different.



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." –Martin Luther King Jr.



Favorite quotes of our educators:

Eshelle: "Not everything that is faced can be changed but nothing can be changed until it's faced." –James Balwin

Jessica: "Don't be mean, be meaningful." –Kid President

Jamel: "When they go low, we go high!" –Michelle Obama

Meredith: "I want you to understand that your first duty is to humanity." –Madam CJ Walker

Amber: "Never be limited by other peoples limited imaginations." –Dr. Mae Jemison

Vanessa: "Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education." –Martin Luther King Jr.

Michele: "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." –Nelson Mandela

Kim: "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" –John Lewis

Whytnie: "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." –Maya Angelou