Let the Children March...in Library Programs

Anti-Bias versus Multicultural Education
Our Team

Melanie Borski-Howard (she/hers)
Youth Services Specialist
Boulder Public Library

Andrea Cleland (she/hers)
Early Literacy Librarian
Loveland Public Library

Carolyn Valencia (she/hers)
Outreach Librarian
High Plains Library District

Amy Ortiz (she/hers)
Events and Experience Supervisor
High Plains Library District
WE acknowledge, with respect, that the land we are on today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations and peoples. This was also a site of trade, gathering, and healing for numerous other Native tribes.

We recognize the Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it; we also acknowledge the forceful removal of the populations after the Medicine Lodge Treaties and atrocities such as the Sand Creek Massacre.

Our intentions are based on our desire to ground and to acknowledge and support a state of change. We bring our increased awareness and consciousness into this space now and into the spaces we inhabit.

We believe this land acknowledgment is a process of deepening; deepening our relationship to personal power and land. We acknowledge we are strangers on stolen land. With this acknowledgment we bring energy that infuses presence, clarity and a deep longing to be in alignment.
Imagine a world of equal opportunity for all. What would that world look like for the kids you work with? What would that world look like for the library you work in? What would you add to the vision of anti-bias education?
And the face staring back in the bathroom mirror—this, too, is love.
“We believe that if the cultural and personal identities of African American boys are recognized, nurtured, and fully integrated into the classroom, their lived experiences and funds of knowledge can be treated equally in school.”

1. Sociocultural theory
2. Anti-deficit achievement framework
3. Culturally responsive teaching
WHAT DOES AN ANTI-BIAS PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?
Presenting Anti-Bias in Children's Librarianship

It's part of what we do!

“Demonstrates respect for diversity and inclusion of cultural values, and continually develops cultural awareness and understanding of self and others.”- Page 3, I. #1
An intellectual movement and loosely organized framework of legal analysis based on the premise that race is not a natural, biological grounded feature of physically distinct subgroups of human beings but a socially constructed (culturally invented) category that is used to oppress and exploit people of colour. Critical race theorist hold that the law and legal institutions in the United States are inherently racist insofar as they function to create and maintain, social, economic and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially African Americans. https://www.britannica.com/topic/critical-race-theory
“A long time ago, way before you were born, a group of white people made up an idea called race. They sorted people by skin color and said that white people were better, smarter, prettier, and that they deserve more than everybody else. That isn’t true or fair at all! But it’s a story that has been told for a long time. When people believe this untrue story about race, that’s called racism.” Page 20-22

“To be Black is something so special.” Dr. Bettina Love
CRITICAL RACE THEORY

NON-BIAS IN CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANSHIP

- Collection Development
  “[Having a diverse collection] is our main focus almost every day.” BPL Collection Development Librarian

- Programming: storytimes, resources for programs

- Customer service

- Library Policies

- Outreach

- Community Partners
Presenting Anti-Bias in Storytime
IN ACTION:

Some simple techniques for EVERY storytime you do!

- Question
- Let the children decide/think about what is happening.
- Steer in an appropriate way if needed.
- Take your time!
Modeling Courageous Conversations
Step 1: Power in the Pause

Take a breath by the nose. Nasal breathing is calming to the central nervous system. Try this deep belly breath:

- Place your right hand on your belly and your left hand on your chest.
- Take a deep breath in for 4 counts
- Exhale slowly for 4 counts

Remember: Deep breathing is where it’s at. Long, slow and deep breaths. Feel the rise and fall of your chest and belly. Take as many breaths as needed to feel calm and centered during responding.

Step 2: Powerful "I"

Model accountability by using "I" statements. Try this:

"I'm feeling ________________ because ____________________

Try not to identify with your feeling. Feelings come and go. However, they bring a wisdom to this moment if we can respond vs. react.

MLK March and Celebration 2021

MLK VIRTUAL MARCH 2021

REGISTER AT: HTTPS://BIT.LY/MLK-2021

Greeley Colorado

Monday, January 18
4 pm on Zoom

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

REGISTER AT: HTTPS://BIT.LY/MLK-2021

@MLKGreely2021

MY ACTION PLAN

1. Spread the Good Word
Become active in spreading empowering information getting the conversation started is a way to lead by example.

2. Dive into Deep Listening
Deep listening is a superpower! Remember to be open-minded and courteous. Discussing issues you feel strongly about in a calm and non-aggressive manner could be eye opening and validating for both parties.

3. Rejoice in Your Community
Get to know your neighbors and those around you to promote social justice on a broader level: a sense of community is vital.

4. Embrace Race
Identify someone of a different race, ethnicity, religion or age, to explore your unconscious biases. This will help you gain a better understanding of the issues affecting them. Build that empathy muscle! Attend events that are ethically focused to gain a greater appreciation of diverse cultures.

5. Adopt a Politician
Take action to support specific legislative initiatives by writing a monthly letter/email to local City Council Members on issues that are important to you.

To create positive change in my community, I will ____________________________
Widening the Window Family Book Club

“Widening the Window” Family Book Club is a 4-month series designed specifically for families from diverse backgrounds. The intention is to encourage thoughtful and courageous community conversation about diversity, race, and racialized trauma.

**Saturday, September 4th**
10:00 – 11:30 am

**Saturday, October 2nd**
10:00 – 11:30 am

**Saturday, November 6th**
10:00 – 11:30 am

**Saturday, December 4th**
10:00 – 11:30 am
El Movimiento
Teaching Cultural Pride

- Empower youth through anti-bias history
- Chicano/a history is our strength
- Reconnect to cultural roots
Representation Matters
Uplift BIPOC Voices & Experiences

University of Northern Colorado Student Athletes Storytime/Interview
RESOURCES

Websites

Competencies for Librarians Serving Children in Public Libraries
https://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/151105_alsc_core-competencies-booklet-nobleeds.pdf

Raising Race Conscious Children: http://www.raceconscious.org/

Embrace Race
https://www.embracerace.org/resources/the-attack-on-critical-race-theory-whats-going-on

The 1619 Project:
https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/resource/Born-on-the-Water-Educators-Guide/

School Library Journal: https://www.slj.com/?subpage=Diversity

Bibliography


Madison, Megan, Ralli, Jessica, & Roxas, Isabel. *Our Skin A First Conversation about Race*. Rise x Penguin Workshop, 2121.


More Websites/Webinars

First Tuesdays: Let's Talk About Race in Storytimes:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT2lJmUZRw-g

https://www.naeyc.org/sites/default/files/globally-shared/downloads/PDFs/resources/topics/Chap1_Anti-Bias%20Education.pdf


RESOURCES

Some of Our Favorite Books

Charles, Tami. *All Because You Matter*. Orchard Books, 2020
Curry, Jessica and Parker. *Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment*. Aladdin, 2019
Kendi, Ibram X. *Antiracist Baby*, Kokila, 2020
Sima, Jessie. *Harriet Gets Carried Away*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018
Smith, Monique Gray. *When We Are Kind*. Orca Book Publishers, 2020
We want to hear from you

Please share your personal and professional experience with anti-bias education and inclusive teaching

Q&A
Our Team

Melanie Borski-Howard (she/hers)
Howardm @boulderlibrary.org

Andrea Cleland (she/hers)
andrea.cleland @cityofloveland.org

Carolyn Valencia (she/hers)
cvalencia@highplains.us

Amy Ortiz (she/hers)
aortiz@highplains.us