

Reading books about different people, places and experiences is critical to healthy child development and should be a priority particularly in early literacy. There is a range of materials to help parents and teachers understand the importance of inclusive reading and to guide them through the process of selecting thoughtful and diverse reading choices. Here is a roadmap for those materials.

For many parents, these will be their first conversations about why and how diverse books play an important role in every child's life. **A Family Guide to Selecting Diverse Books** outlines five major goals of inclusive reading and includes both general and specific suggestions of books that meet each goal's criteria and purpose. The goals address specific targets and common book pitfalls to help parents to grow in their ability to evaluate the quality and impact of a selected book.

Once parents understand the importance of reading inclusively, use **What's on Your Bookshelf** to critically evaluate your book collection and reading habits. This guide prompts caregivers, teachers and librarians to reflect on their past year's book selection. Using a series of questions about story elements such as characters or story lines, identifies whether those books are "frequently," "occasionally" or "never" shared with young readers. It can be used by families at home and is also a terrific resource for educators looking to evaluate the diversity of their classroom or library collection.

For families committed to reading inclusively, the **Family Reading Challenge** offers both a next-steps guide to diverse book selection and a game element to keep families engaged. A list on one side of the challenge offers quick prompts suggesting diverse book elements like positive representation of a disability or a setting outside the United States. On the other side, artwork featuring blank books invites readers to color in a cover for every book they read that meets the challenge's criteria, to track their progress. The artwork can be reprinted alone if multiple kids want to chart their progress or offered to an entire class of readers if an educator wanted to take this project on as a group goal.

Finally, these three resources around inclusive reading are supported by a range of other PTA materials, including the Family Guides **Using Book Awards to Guide Your Reading Selection, Around the World with a Book** and others. While any of the three major resources listed here could stand on its own, they collectively support your members' understanding and growth around this critical topic. We hope they help in your efforts to encourage compassionate and inclusive young readers!