

In 1990, Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop published an [essay](#) about the importance of providing young readers with diverse books that reflect the “multicultural nature of the world” in which we live. In the essay, Dr. Bishop coined the phrase “Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Glass Doors” to explain how children see themselves in books and how they can also learn about the lives of others through literature. Dr. Bishop makes the point that it's crucial for children to view themselves in the books they read. Here are resources for learning more about Dr. Bishop and how she has influenced the early childhood field.

- **Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors** <https://scenicregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Mirrors-Windows-and-Sliding-Glass-Doors.pdf>
- **Rudine Sims Bishop video** https://youtu.be/_AAu58SNSyc
- **Windows and Mirrors and Sliding Glass Doors: Ensuring Students See Themselves and Others in Literature** <https://humaneeducation.org/windows-and-mirrors-and-sliding-glass-doors-ensuring-students-see-themselves-and-others-in-literature/>

What We Teach About Race and Gender: Representation in Images and Text of Children's Books

https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BFI_RB_Adukia-et-al_040221v4-1.pdf

This research brief reports findings from recent studies that applied artificial intelligence techniques to analyzing images and text in children's books. A key finding was that despite growing awareness in recent decades about race and gender issues, children's books generally skew toward lighter skin and male representation.

Picture This: Diversity in Children's Books 2018 Infographic

<https://readingspark.wordpress.com/2019/06/19/picture-this-diversity-in-childrens-books-2018-infographic/>

This infographic shows the percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It reveals that children's literature both underrepresents and misrepresents some communities.

Reading and RES: Choosing and Using Books to Discuss Race and Equity

<https://www.apa.org/res/parent-resources/choosing-books.pdf>

This succinct resource offers insights about how to choose and use children's books to support conversations about race, equity, and diversity, including sample questions to ask.

We Need Diverse Books <https://diversebooks.org/>

This site has many fine features, each of which leads to discovering children's books on many aspects of culture, identity, and life experience. First, it is searchable, which makes it possible to enter key words (e.g., ability, south Asian) and find examples of books and insights. You can also go directly to Where to Find Diverse Books to view their suggestions in multiple categories. Dedicated sections also offer resources for educators and librarians.

Interested in Bilingual Books?

- **How to Use Bilingual Books** <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/how-to-use-bilingual-books.pdf> (English)
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/how-to-use-bilingual-books-esp.pdf> (Spanish)
- **Selecting and Using Culturally Appropriate Children's Books in Languages Other Than English**
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/select-cultural-childrens-books-non-english-eng.pdf> (English)
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/select-cultural-childrens-books-non-english-esp.pdf> (Spanish)

A Children's Book GUMDROP https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNw8V_Fkw28

Enjoy this award winning film version of the children's book *Hair Love*.

Natural Resources is a free, one-way listserv that is distributed monthly. Each issue features readily available, and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3 and their families. Resources in English and Spanish are **highlighted**. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. Past issues are archived at <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/natural-resources-monthly-newsletter> To subscribe or unsubscribe, suggest resources, or get more information, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu