

How diverse is your children's book collection?

Getting diverse books into the hands of young readers promotes empathy and acceptance from an early age. So how inclusive are the books in your service's collection? Take these four simple steps to find out.



STEP 1

Divide your books into those with human main characters and those with non-human main characters (animals, mythical creatures, vehicles, etc.)

STEP 2

Split your books with non-human main characters into gender (where possible)

STEP 3

Split your books with human main characters by:

- Gender
- Race (thinking about representations of both cultural diversity and First Nations Australians)
- Disability representation (thinking about representations of both physical disability and neurodiversity)
- LGBTQIA+ representation
- Family diversity representation

STEP 4

Review your results!
How did your bookshelves stack up? Are there any gaps?



Extra questions to reflect on

- Do the books in your collection celebrate the diversity of children and families in your community?
- Do they offer a window into the lives of unfamiliar people and places?
- Are any written or illustrated by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people? What about people of colour, or people from different nations and religions?
- Think about the subject matter of your diverse books. Do all your books featuring First Nations stories focus on the Dreamtime? Do you have any books featuring diverse characters that are not primarily about race or prejudice? Do any contain hurtful racial or ethnic stereotypes?



TAKE ACTION

Is it time to diversify your bookshelf? What could your first step be? Write it in the box now!
