

GUIDE 11. GUIDE TO LEARNING RESOURCES

Children's Early Years experiences have a long-term influence on their attitudes and expectations. They are so interested in the world about them that it is an ideal time to introduce all kinds of examples of difference.

1 CHOOSING RESOURCES

Look at the whole range of resources that you have in your Early Years setting.

- Can the children recognise something of themselves in the pictures and stories they encounter when they are with you?
- What sort of message do the images and stories convey?
- Do your resources reflect the life experiences of the children you work with?
- Do you have pictures and books that reflect their homes and their surroundings?
- Do your toys, your books and IT resources reflect the make up of their family groups, their familiar foods, the clothes they wear and the things they do?

When children find aspects of their own lives in pictures and stories, they can more readily engage with similar resources featuring different children leading different lives.

Pictures and resources around your school need to show and celebrate all kinds of people in all kinds of different situations – different in sizes, ages, physical features, abilities and disabilities, body shapes, cultures and ethnic origins, etc.

2 SOME REALLY GOOD BOOKS

Something Else, by Katherine Cave and Chris Riddell. There are teachers notes on the Changing Faces [website](#) to support this book.

A little creature feels different and left out in a school full of unusual looking creatures. A story about befriending and finding ways to fit in when feeling and looking different.

It's OK to be Different: A Children's Picture Book About Diversity and Kindness, by Sharon Purtill and Sujata Saha

Full of positive affirmations about being different. Includes the more commonplace like glasses and pimples as well as some funny ones like wearing fish in your hair!

Bein' with you this way, by W. Nikola-Lisa

Exuberant verse invites readers of all ages to join in a celebration of children's diversity.

All kinds of people, by Emma Damon

A lift a flap book that introduces the more common place differences. Shows how some people are tall while others are short and introduces many other differences like glasses, pimples, freckles, different skin colours and hair colours in a fun way. (Also in this series include *All kinds of families* and *All kinds of feelings*.)

Susan Laughs, by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross

This book shows the likes (e.g. painting and horse riding) and dislikes (e.g. the dark) of a little girl called Susan. Every child will have something in common with Susan before discovering, right at the end, that Susan is a wheelchair user.

3-7 years. Supporting a child with a visible difference: a teacher's guide

What If We Were All The Same!, by C.M Harris

This book is an inspirational and warm celebration of the differences in all living things. The story is useful for children who want to be just like everyone else. It is designed to help children understand there are many reasons for being friends with those who are different. Whether they have red hair or brown hair, green eyes or blue eyes, long legs or short legs, light skin or dark skin, glasses, use a wheelchair, or anything else. Our differences are what makes us unique and if we truly think about it, would you want to be exactly the same as someone else?

You can also get ideas of other books from:

Letterbox Library (www.letterboxlibrary.com) - a specialist supplier of children's books that celebrate equality and diversity.