



Representation Matters

Children benefit from seeing themselves in the materials used in therapy. But SLPs rarely select materials taking race, ethnicity, or culture into account, instead using the most readily available materials, which frequently center White experiences.



Use Diverse Books Year Round

Kids deserve to see themselves in therapy materials year round! Don't just feature diverse characters during February for Black History Month or diverse family relationships in June for PRIDE month. Acknowledging holidays is important but should just be the start.



Show Everyday Experiences

Select books for use that depict kids doing everyday things and participating in routines that are typical now. Show kids visiting the grocery store, at the bus stop or playground, fixing their hair, and getting ready for bed. Avoid stereotypes of what a certain culture does.

Turn the Page, SLPs!



SLPs say that they want to consider representation, but this isn't reflected in the books they say they use. A kind interpretation is that other barriers must exist like limited time and money to build new lesson plans. To remove these barriers and improve the use of books that feature a variety of races, the University of Delaware Communication Disorders Program is organizing a fund for Delaware SLPs to use to obtain new diverse picture books.



Want to Help?

Support this fund:

Venmo @TurnThePageSLPs

Hardback picture books average \$10-20/book. We need your help to support as many SLPs as possible in Turning the Page toward consistently using representative books.



Need a Book?

Fill out this form to request up to 5 picture books (up to \$50 worth of materials) to diversify your library for use with children with Communication Disorders. Books available as long as funds last.

<https://bit.ly/2Fk2msm>



Diversity Enriches us All

Diverse books aren't JUST for Black, Brown, and Asian kids. White kids benefit from being exposed to the WHOLE world. Use diverse books with all the children you serve.



Have a Plan

Go beyond intention. Buy only books featuring non-White protagonists for a year. Partner with other SLPs to develop new lesson plans and supplementary materials. Work with your library to obtain books if your materials budget is small.



Sidekicks don't count

Frequently Black, Latinx, Native American, Indian, & Asian kids are included - but only as a sidekick or friend. These characters often reinforce stereotypes too. Be sure that all kids also have a chance to see themselves in the lead, as the protagonist!