

Checklist for Anti-Bias in Children's Books

Indicators	Yes	No
<u>Illustrations:</u> Are there stereotypes? Is there tokenism (only one representative of a cultural group?) Is there invisibility?		
<u>Story Line & Relationships Between People:</u> Are there power relationships? Are members of privileged groups the ones holding the power?		
<u>Messages about Different Lifestyles:</u> Does the story make it seem unfavorable to live outside the white, middle-class, suburban lifestyle? Does the setting reflect current lifestyles? Does the setting reflect past assumptions about different lifestyles?		
<u>Effects on Children's Self and Social Identities:</u> Does the message the book is sending teach children to feel inferior because of their skin color, gender, family, income, sexuality, or able-bodiedness?		
<u>Are Children and Adults Engaged in Actions for Change:</u> Are the heroes in the book only white, heterosexual males? Are adults and children working together to create change?		
<u>Author and/or Illustrator's Background and Perspective:</u> Does the author have any qualifications to deal with the subject? Are the images accurate and does the illustrator respectfully portray the characters in the story?		
<u>Loaded Words:</u> Is there frequent use of "man" to stand for women as well as men (firemen, cowboy, mailman, policeman, etc.) Are there racist undertones in the words use to describe characters? (savage, primitive, etc.)		
<u>Copyright Date:</u> Was the book written and published before 1970?		
<u>Appeal of Story and Illustrations for Young Children:</u> Are the pictures colorful? Are the words developmentally appropriate for preschool? Is the storyline and concept developmentally appropriate for preschool?		

Common and Harmful/ Undermining Stereotypes

- Strong, independent girls and women are “manlike”
- Book-loving or nonathletic boys and men are “effeminate”
- Latino men talk funny, are lazy, gang members, or wear oversize sombreros
- African American men are gang members, oversexed, or underemployed
- African American women are too independent, oversexed, or “welfare moms”
- LGBTQ people are invisible or sexual predators
- Poor people are invisible or depicted as passively needing help from others
- Native Americans live in teepees, carry bows and arrows, or are half-naked in the winter
- People with disabilities are not independent or are to be pitied
- Arab and/or Muslim men are terrorists
- Arab and/or Muslim women are voiceless and passive
- All Muslims are Arab

Examples of Groups of People Who are Often Invisible in Children’s Books or Mainstream Media

- Families who live in rural areas
- Blue-collar workers
- Musicians, artists, and writers
- Families with two dads or two moms
- Single mothers or fathers
- Homeless families
- Families with an incarcerated parent
- People of Arab descent and/or families who practice Islam
- Transgender adults and children