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## THE IMPACT OF LEARNING ABOUT DIVERSITY AT A YOUNG AGE

*"Diversity can affect psychosocial development during early childhood by helping children create positive self-images, form strong relationships with peers, and develop positive attitudes towards other children from both similar and different backgrounds. Teaching tolerance and acceptance in young people is essential to fostering their ability to believe that all groups of people are equally valuable."*

*-Christine VanDonge*

*Noodle.com*

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KENAI COMMUNITY LIBRARY



## Blue Kit: Who We Are

**Recommended Ages:** 3 to 6  
**Concepts:** Inclusion, acceptance, and kindness

### ABOUT THIS KIT

The *Know Your Neighbor: Kindness Kit* is an exciting way to start conversations about equity, diversity, and inclusion with children from an early age. Children and their grown-ups are able to explore these concepts through media such as books, music, film, and toys, along with the activities provided in this brochure.

**Please note:** This kit must be returned to a staff member at the Kenai Community Library Location.



# KENAI COMMUNITY LIBRARY

This kit provides materials that allow children to explore diversity through appropriate toys, books, music, and television programming.

## Kit Activities

The following activities are designed to give parents, teachers, and caregivers a starting point to teach children the importance of kindness and inclusion in a global world. Be the catalyst that helps the children in our community develop positive attitudes toward others regardless of background and become global and kind citizens. Incorporate diverse literature in your everyday routine, rather than making diversity a one-time lesson. Use teachable moments to discuss the concepts of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

**Equity** - the quality of being fair and impartial.

**Diversity** - a range of people with various racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds and various lifestyles, experience, and interests.

**Inclusion** - the practice of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.



**Please verify all parts are present before returning.**

# Kit Contents & Replacement Costs

Item Type	Description	Cost
Book	In My Anaana's Amautik by Nadia Sammurtok	\$17
Book	Fishing With Grandma by Susan Avinqaq	\$11
Book	The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Mahammad	\$16
Book	This is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe	\$14
Book	Children Just Like Me: Food Like Mine by DK	\$15
DVD	Molly Of Denali: Molly's Awesome Alaskan Adventure	\$9
CD	Best Multicultural Songs for Kids	\$16
Object	Education Pretend People	\$15
Object	Melissa and Doug Children of the World Puzzle	\$13
Object	Melissa and Doug Sushi Slicing Set	\$20
<b>Packaging &amp; Processing Fee:</b>		\$25
<b>Total Kit Replacement Cost:</b>		\$171

## Activity one: Read and Sing

Read *In My Anaana's Amautik* by Nadia Sammurtok with your child. Talk about the book: What is an amautik? How did the baby feel being in anaana's amautik? Now sing *If You Are Happy And You Know It*, and encourage your child to make the hand motions as you sing!

## Activity two: Hurtful Words

Have your child draw and cut out a big heart, then read with them *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad. Talk about the beautiful blue hijab that Asiya wears to school. Have your child crumble the heart every time one of Asiya's classmates says or does something hurtful. At the end of the story have your child attempt to smooth out the heart. Even though the heart appears smooth, the cruel words have left marks. Use this story to address hurtful language.

## Activity three: Fishing with Grandma

In *Fishing with Grandma* by Susan Avinqaq, the children ask Anaanatsiaq if they can go on an adventure. What happens on the adventure? What do they do with their extra Arctic Char? With your child, surprise someone from your neighborhood with a special treat!

## Activity Four: Create a Family

Families come in all shapes, forms and sizes. Use the action figures to talk about the different make-ups of families around the globe.

# Kit Activities

## Activity Five: Globe Trekking

Begin by reading the book *This is How We Do It* by Matt Lamothe. Use a globe or map to look up the countries highlighted in the book. Then find a country on the globe or map and research it together in the book!

## Activity Six: Pretend Meal

Begin by Reading *Food Like Mine* by DK Publishing to your child. Next, prepare a pretend play meal together. Talk about your favorite foods from other cultures.

## Activity Seven: Build a Puzzle

Together work on the *Melissa and Doug Children of the World Puzzle!* Now look at the wonderfully diverse clothing, flags, and traditions of other countries!

## Activity Eight: Awesome Alaskan Adventure

Watch *Molly of Denali: Molly's Awesome Alaskan Adventure* together. Ask your child, "What are some of the most memorable Alaskan adventures you have had?". Now each draw a picture that illustrates this adventure. Where did the adventure take place? What people would be in the picture?

## Activity Nine: Listen and Dance

Together listen to *Best Multicultural Songs For Kids* and watch videos of musical celebrations around the world. Start and stop the music to have a Freeze Dance competition!

