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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



Green Kit: Our Neighborhood

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. Also, it is important to 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.

Know Your Neighbor Kindness Kit



Please verify all parts are present before returning.

Kit Contents & Replacement Costs

Item Type	Description	Cost
Book	Last Stop On Market Street by Matt De La Pena	\$15
Book	My Papi Has A Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero	\$15
Book	Same, Same, But Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw	\$15
Book	You Are My Friend by Aimee Reid	\$13
Book	Home by Carson Ellis	\$15
DVD	Mr. Rogers Neighborhood: It's a Beautiful Day Collection	\$9
CD	World Playground by Putumayo Kids	\$15
Object	Education Pretend People	\$15
Object	Learning Resource Sorting Neighborhood	\$17
Object	Peaceable Kingdom Friends and Neighbors Game	\$17
Packaging & Processing Fee:		\$25
Total Kit Replacement Cost:		\$171

Activity one: Read and Sing

Read *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt De La Pena. Talk about the book: Where are CJ and his Grandma going on Market Street? Have you ever used public transportation? Now sing *Wheels on the Bus* with your child incorporating hand motions as you sing.

Activity two: I'm Going To The Market

Read *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintera. In the book, Daisy drives past a community mural. Talk about murals. What are they? Talk about your favorite shops in town. Now play the game *I'm going to the Market* with your child: Begin by saying, "I am going to the market to buy..." (object). Then have your child repeat the sentence and item you named, plus add one of their own, and so on.

Activity three: Pen Pals

First read *Same, Same, But Different* by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw. Help your child start a pen pal relationship with someone you know. If possible, write to someone from another country!

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: Sorting a Neighborhood

Using the *Learning Resource Sorting Neighborhood*, have your child sort the homes by color. Now have them sort the neighborhood by figures, pets, etc. Then have them sort them anyway they want and discuss it. Use this activity to illustrate diversity in your neighborhood.

Activity Six: Friends and Neighbors

Invite your child to play the *Peaceable Kingdom* board game *Friends and Neighbors!*

Activity Seven: Build a Neighborhood


First read *Home* by Carson Ellis to your child, then take a walk in your neighborhood to observe different types of homes. Next, help your child build a house or an entire neighborhood with boxes, blankets, paper, and any other materials you would like.

Activity Eight: Listen and Dance

Together listen to *World Playground* by Putumayo Kids and watch videos of musical celebrations around the world. Start and stop the music to have a Freeze Dance competition!

Activity Nine: It's a Beautiful Day!

Together watch some of *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood: It's a Beautiful Day Collection*. Now draw a picture with your child that illustrates your neighborhood. What places would you include? What people would be in the picture?



These are just some suggestions to use the materials in this kit, but feel free to be creative with it. Make it your own, and have fun!