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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



## Red Kit: Expression

**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.



Please verify all parts are present before returning.

# Kit Contents & Replacement Costs

Item Type	Description	Cost
Book	Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry	\$7
Book	Ho'onani Hula Warrior by Heather Gale	\$14
Book	Say Hello by Rachel Isadora	\$8
Book	To Be An Artist by Miya Ajmera	\$25
DVD	Elena of Avalor: Celebrations to Remember	\$10
CD	Kids World Party by Putumayo Kids	\$16
Object	Education Pretend People	\$15
Object	Beistle Fiesta Maracas, 8" 2 pack	\$11
Object	8" Mini Wooden Drum	\$25
<b>Packaging &amp; Processing Fee:</b>		\$25
<b>Total Kit Replacement Cost:</b>		\$156

## Activity one: Say Hello

Read *Say Hello* by Rachel Isadora with your child. In the book, Carmelita likes to say hello to everyone in her neighborhood. Talk about how you say hello. Now practice saying hello in Spanish, English, French, Japanese, and other languages!

## Activity two: Ho'onanai Hula Warrior

Read *Ho'onani Hula Warrior* by Heather Gale. Ho'onani is based on a real person who feels "in the middle". Talk about what happens to Ho'onani after the Hula performance. Take a moment to talk about unconditional acceptance and respect. Make a list together of ways you can show respect.

## Activity three: Hair Love

In the book *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry, Zuri wants her hair to be special. Talk about why she wants it to be special. Encourage your child to create a special card for a loved one.

## 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: Be An Artist

Read *To Be An Artist* by Miya Ajmera with your child. Talk about the different ways people create art, and explore new artistic mediums like finger paint, cut and paste collages, watercolor, playdough, markers, stamps and more!

## Activity Six: Express Yourself

Talk about how you use words to express yourself. Start by learning about Acronym Poetry: Help your child write each letter of their name on a separate line on a page. Think of words that begin with each letter that represent the child. Now try it with other words!

## Activity Seven: Play Some Music

Use the instruments provided to play some music together, then listen to professional musicians using the same instruments. Investigate the wide range of music around the world.

## Activity Eight: Listen and Dance

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: Celebrations to Remember

Watch *Elena of Avalor: Celebrations to Remember* together. Talk about celebrations that you take part in. Draw pictures together that illustrates those celebrations. What foods would be there? How do people dress?

