

When it comes to teaching diversity and inclusion, books are one of the most advanced tools in your toolbox. Books are windows into other worlds, eras, and experiences that can expand children's understanding of themselves and others.

1. Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story Of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah

By Laurie Ann Thompson

Based on an inspiring true story, and another great book that's been turned into a film, Emmanuel is a boy born in Ghana, with one deformed leg. He was dismissed by most, but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. He used to hop two miles to school every day, but in 2001 he cycled an incredible 400 miles to prove he can do anything he puts his mind to.

2. Strictly No Elephants

By Lisa Mantchev

So fun and imaginative, a local pet club won't admit a boy and his tiny pet elephant, so he hatches up a plan that will teach them that animals come in all shapes and sizes, just like friends.

3. This Is How We Do It

By Matt Lamothe

Follow one day in the shoes of different kids around the world in Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia. This is the perfect book to get your kids learning about different countries and cultures and help them recognize our similarities and differences.

4. What If We Were All The Same

By C.M. Harris

This is another great diversity and inclusion book for kids that tells us to embrace our distinctness whether it's our eye colour, height, abilities and much more. As author Charity Michelle Harris puts it, "What kind of world would we be living in if everyone looked the same and did the same things? – A boring one!"

5. The Big Umbrella

by Amy June Bates

The Big Umbrella is a subtly-told story about tolerance, inclusion, and caring for others, no matter what shape or size they are. Even if the weather worsens and other people arrive, there's always room for more under the umbrella. The book creates a warm, dry haven in a storm. When society is often eager to exclude those who are different, Bates teaches readers to embrace them.