

Connect through care

When interacting with children, genuinely greet them and show interest as you interact. Anyone who cares for children can quickly bond through sharing funny stories and empathizing with struggles. Even educators seen as experts can share humbling moments as a caregiver that will form a connection. Parents and family members who feel acknowledged will be more likely to commit to classes. They may be more likely to share their own vulnerabilities which will lead to increased personalized learning.

Create windows and mirrors for families

Everyone needs to feel validated and valued. Create “mirrors” for families so they feel seen. When choosing photos and books for marketing and content, consider looking for resources that will reflect all kinds of families: multiracial, immigrant, LGBTQA+, grandparents, multigenerational, and various abilities, for example.

Windows can be glimpses into other worlds. Classes can be opportunities for everyone (educators and families alike) to learn about each other and their unique experiences. Encourage sharing and model an interest and willingness to learn.

Children’s books to encourage inclusivity

Katz, K. (1999). *The Colors of Us*. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

Khan, H. (2015). *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.

Parr, T. (2003). *The Family Book*. New York: Megan Tingley Books

Sotomayor, S. (2019). *Just Ask!*. New York: Philomel Books.