

Parent Sheet For Our Book Of The Month

***All Are Welcome* written by Alexandra Penfold and Illustrated by Suzanne Kauffman**

Link to the online reading of the story:

<https://youtu.be/O5gia39y5uo?feature=shared>

What is the overarching theme/message of the book? Can we encapsulate this into one word or phrase that is easy for everyone to understand?

The main theme of this book is the importance of being **inclusive**. The book shows us the real need for community and diversity. ***“We’re part of a community. Our strength is our diversity.”***

Why is the message or theme entrenched in the book important to disseminate with everyone in our community?

We are a Flagship School under the Inclusion Quality Mark framework; one of 30 schools in the country to hold this accolade. Inclusivity is one of the most important things we encourage in our school.

We have such diversity within our school; within our current cohort of children there are over 34 different languages spoken, not to mention the diversity in family dynamics and the different needs that children and families may have.

With the Black Lives Matter movement and our own emerging Newham offer, Education4Change, there isn’t a better time to raise awareness and ensure we celebrate community and diversity.

We also need to make sure our children don’t develop any unconscious bias or discrimination and it’s always important for children to feel represented.

Thinking about the theme/message, what quotes from the book jump out at you that relate to the theme or message?

“All are welcome here.”

“In our classroom safe and sound, Fears are lost and hope is found.”

“Time for lunch - what a spread! A dozen different types of bread. Pass it round till we’re all fed.”

“We’re part of a community. Our strength is our diversity.”

“You have a place here. You have a space here.”

Here are some activities that you can do with your child in regards to exploring the book's themes or ideas:

Activity:	Target Audience:
Talk to your child about why they love coming to nursery. What is it that makes them feel "welcome here."	All children
Ask your child to draw a picture of one of their friends from nursery. Ask them to explain what is the same about each other and what is different. Encourage the fact that it doesn't matter if anything is different, you still enjoy playing with that person.	All children
The book shows children being kind to one another. Ask your child if they know what it is to be kind to someone else. If they don't know, can you give them some examples. Can they think of times they have been kind to someone at nursery. Can they think of a time when someone has been kind to them? Can they think of a way they could be kind to one of their friends the next time they go to nursery?	All children.
The book shows children sharing food at the lunch table and makes reference to "a dozen different kinds of bread." Can you find some different kinds of bread to try on a different day and talk to your child about where in the world that bread comes from? Here are just a few examples: Baguette - France Ciabatta - Italy Pita Bread - Middle East Arepa - Columbia and Venezuela Chapati - India Damper - Australia Injera - Ethiopia Matzoh - Ancient Israel	All children.
Talk to your child about their heritage; where they come from. It is really important for children to feel a sense of pride of their background. Have a look at a map, a flag, different traditions etc.	All children
Pause on some of the pictures on the video reading of the story. Ask if your child identifies with any of the images presented on the screen. Have a talk about similarities and differences.	All children
The second to last page in the book features children greeting each other with "welcome" in different languages. Can you try out a few different greetings in different languages with your child?	All children
Can you work on a poster that reads "All Are Welcome Here" and ask your child to think of and draw some pictures that show kindness and people's uniqueness. We would love for you to hand in your work so we can make a big display of the children's efforts.	All children
Don't be afraid to talk to your child about injustice and dispel any racial misconceptions you might hear. This article is a really helpful introduction to how you can approach these conversations with your child. https://www.babycentre.co.uk/a1021924/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-race	
With your child can you come up with a way to initiate an act of kindness to someone who might not be expecting it? I like to bake and can't eat it all and often offer it to one of my neighbours out of the blue; they are always appreciative! Baking some cookies, drawing a picture or making a card can brighten someones day and make them feel thought of and part of the community.	