

J is for Just

JOY



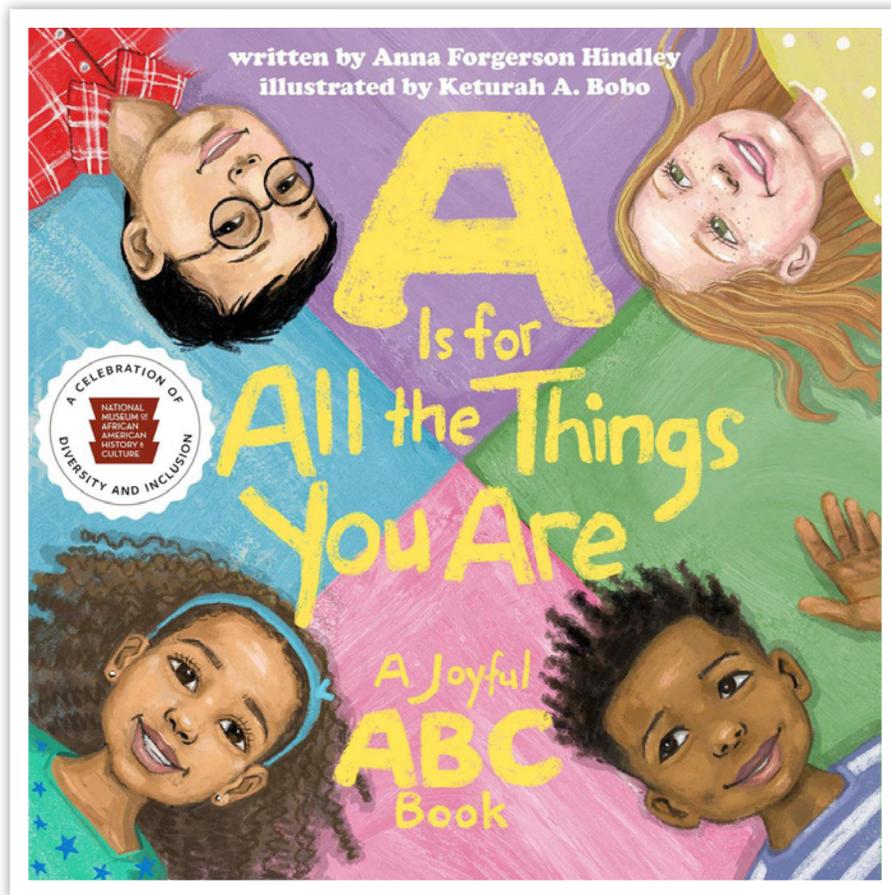
FULL

A NMAAHC KIDS ABCs ACTIVITY BOOK

INFANT AND TODDLER EDITION

Brought to you by the National Museum of African American History and Culture Early Childhood Education Initiative. Inspired by the children's book, A is for All The Things You Are: A Joyful ABC Book written by Anna Forgeron Hindley and illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo, ©2018 Art by Keturah Ariel LLC.

Funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.



A is for All the Things You Are was written to affirm our children and empower them to see themselves as many things at once – daring and loving, creative and just, amazing and zany – and everything in between. The book offers wonderful opportunities for conversations with children to build their vocabularies, strengthen their sense of self and deepen their joy in and acceptance of human diversity. The illustrations allow them to see not only themselves, but others in the same positive light. By seeing positive images of children of different colors, genders, abilities, classes, and other social identities, we nurture the child’s comfort and joy in human diversity so deep caring connections can be made across humanity.

Each activity booklet offers suggestions of how to begin the lifelong work of having a positive sense of self and others with your infant or toddler, how to support their language development and how to build the foundations of literacy.

A Is for All the Things You Are: A Joyful ABC Book
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© 2018 Smithsonian Institution (text)

J is for Just:

Have you ever had a disagreement on the playground or when playing a game? If you listen to everybody's point of view and treat others fairly, that means you are just.

How have you stood up for justice?

Important as justice is, it's a concept infants or toddler can't grasp entirely with their young minds. However, the foundation of understanding and committing to justice is built during this stage. It begins as we take care of our little ones bodies and feelings (teaching kindness and empathy), listen to what they try to tell us (teaching the importance of having a voice and speaking up), and do things *with* them instead of *to* them (teaching collaboration).

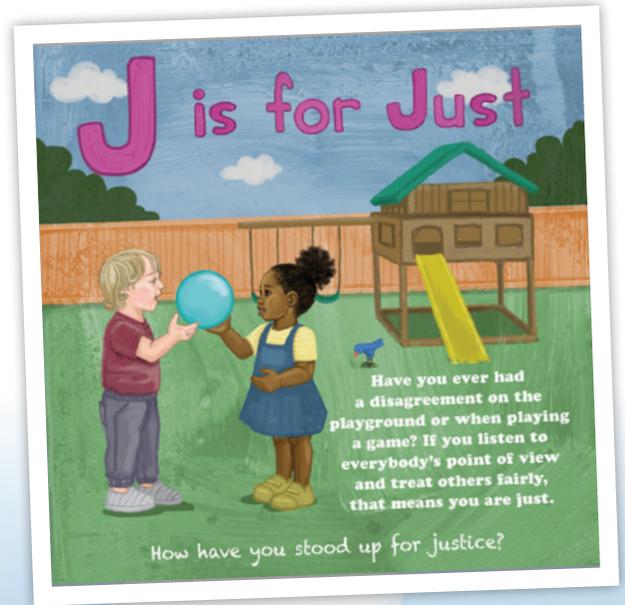
Though there are many ways we support these qualities in our children daily, one lovely way we do this is by singing with them. Shared music holds people together and builds a sense of belonging to each other. Introducing little ones to music from justice movements makes this genre familiar and safe while also creating an awareness of how powerful the human voice and our words can be. There's no need for a lesson about the music's lyrics just yet. Simply listen together for pleasure. The power of the song's language, emotion and purpose will translate in time.

The skill of sharing is essential to a child's a sense of justice but it takes time to develop. By observing the ways we share, infants and toddlers slowly become more capable of considering the experiences of others and practicing empathy. Notice and narrate the moments in which you both share possessions, share time or share emotions. As your little one's capacity to share and be empathetic grows so does their ability to make fair and just choices.

What You'll Need:

The following supplies are suggested for the activities in this booklet.

- Large piece of paper
- Washable paints and child-brushes
- Markers
- Store bought or homemade instruments



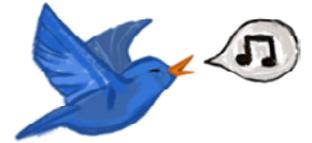
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EXPLORE

In early childhood, children learn best through doing! To explore this week's theme, try the experience below with your infant or toddler.

Music for Justice



[Coming Into Montgomery by Spider Martin](#)

Music has long been a tool in the fight for justice. From spirituals to protest songs, African Americans have utilized the power of music in expressing their thoughts and feelings and advocating for change. Introduce your little one to the ways music communicates with others:

- **Introduce your little one to the great realm of African American protest music.** Provide your infant or toddler with toy instruments, a pot and spoon “drumset” or a cardboard tube “trumpet.” Invite them to join you in making music, clapping and singing along to protest songs like [Let There Be Peace](#) by Sweet Honey in the Rock or [Ain't Gonna Let No Body Turn Me 'Round](#) by The Freedom Singers.
- **Include your little one in using music to express their feelings.** Throughout the day, sing and describe your feelings - and your little one's too! Sing to a favorite tune or make one up and add simple words. For example, sing words like, “*I am so hungry, so hungry, so hungry.*” or “*Baby's feeling sleepy, baby needs a nap.*” to the tune of the *Alphabet Song* or *This Little Light of Mine*. Ask your toddler to help you sing about how they feel too. (No matter how your singing voice sounds, you have the voice of someone who loves your child. That's what counts.)

EXPLORE



Explore this week's theme with your toddler by trying this engaging experience inspired by our museum collection.

Creating Together for Justice



[Plywood panel mural from Resurrection City, 1968](#)

Designed for: Toddlers

What You'll Need: Large piece of paper, washable paints and child-brushes or markers

In 1968, over 3,000 people from around the United States gathered on the National Mall in Washington, DC for a movement against poverty called the Poor People's Campaign. Together, people of different cultural and racial identities built a town of tents called [Resurrection City](#). For 42 days, they shared this space and lived together fighting for economic justice for all people. This mural shows how different groups of people came together to create and share Resurrection City. Click the caption to take a closer look!

Like the people who gathered to contribute their words and images to this mural, making art together with your little one is an opportunity to construct together and share space collaboratively. Gather a large piece of paper, washable paints and child-brushes, or markers. As you paint or draw, try these ways to share and co-create:

- Point out how you are both adding to the artwork and thank them for sharing!
- Take turns adding marks to the paper and narrate, like this: *I added a circle. Now, what will you add?*
- Share materials. Hand them a brush or marker. Ask them to hand you one too.
- Help your toddler show your large drawing to someone else: *This is something we did together.*

EXPLORE MORE

Continue learning with your little one using these recommended resources:

Books

Check out the books below to discover and introduce the many ways to sing with your child and begin the process of sharing.



Singing in the Rain

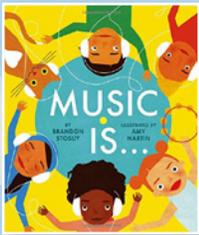
by Tim Hopgood



Sharing Time

(Tiempo Para Compartir)

by Elizabeth Verdick,
illustrated by Marieka Heinlen



Music Is...

by Brandon Stosuy,
illustrated by Amy Martin



26 Big Things Small Hands Do

by Coleen Paratore,
illustrated by Mike Reed

Tip:

Use your favorite search engine to find read-aloud videos online!

Online Resources

Learn to support your child's ability to begin to understand justice and consider the experiences of others through music and sharing.

★ [Beyond Twinkle, Twinkle: Using Music with Infants and Toddlers -Zero to Three](#)

★ [Sharing Song with Elmo and Ernie - Sesame Street](#)

★ [Helping Young Children with Sharing - Zero to Three](#)

CONNECT

A Guide for Families and Caregivers

Why do these experiences matter?

A child's identity is both internally constructed and externally imposed. They learn who they are and how they are valued from the words and actions of others and from the way they do or don't make sense of those messages. Their beloved adults (that's you!) are the most important people in their world. The words you give a child to describe themselves and others have lasting power in their lives. When a child has the words to think about their strengths and their worth, they can sort through negative messages and hold on to their sense of being loveable and capable. The experiences in this booklet are invitations for you to use objects, activities and words to support your child's positive identity development, their fascination with how people are both different and the same, and their ability to read emotions and build empathy. In time, experiences like these will also support your child's ability to recognize unfairness or unkindness and to stand up for themselves and others.

What about supporting language development and getting ready to read?

Alphabets, in and of themselves, are not particularly interesting to young children. However, learning letter-filled words to describe the world around them and inside of them (their feelings, experiences and senses) are very interesting to children! Discovering new words, new ways to say things and new ways to think is exciting and essential to a child's literacy and identity development.

In the first three years of life, early language and literacy skills are best learned through everyday moments. The experiences in these booklets invite you to boost your child's literacy through talking, playing and creating together in fun and accessible ways. Some experiences will guide you in helping your infant or toddler "name the universe" with descriptive words for the actions and emotions of themselves and others. Other experiences will encourage you to point out written words and look closely at objects to provide your little one with the beginning connections between the real world, reading and talking.

Every child's path to literacy is different and valid - just like their identity. The experiences in these booklets aim to support you and your child along their unique journey to literacy and a positive sense of self. **Remember to have fun along the way!**

Credits

Objects

- Plywood panel mural from Resurrection City, 1968. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Gift of Vincent DeForest. [2012.110](#)
- *Coming Into Montgomery* by Spider Martin, 1965. Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, © 1965 Spider Martin. [2011.14.1](#)

Original Artwork

- Bluebird (cover, pages 3, 4); Clouds (pages 2, 5) © 2018 Art by Keturah Ariel LLC

Course Evaluation (return this evaluation with homework)

Your Name: _____ Registry# _____

Course Name: Book ____ (A-Z) Smithsonian Joyful activity book series - <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/early-childhood>

Date you Completed Course: _____ Are you Family or Group Center

Phone# _____ Email: _____

Training outcome survey rating

Training evaluation statements: Please circle

Please circle
 

The presentation consisted of hands-on training, questions and answers, and lecture.	1 2 3 4 5
Overall effectiveness of training (I feel the training was clear and easy to understand)	1 2 3 4 5
The interactive classroom and homework assignments were helpful learning materials	1 2 3 4 5
This subject was useful, and I have incorporated the information into my childcare environment	1 2 3 4 5
Overall effectiveness of training	1 2 3 4 5
The method used to present this information was in step with my learning style	1 2 3 4 5
I would recommend other providers to attend this training	1 2 3 4 5
The materials used in this training were valuable and relevant (i.e. handouts, books, homework assignments, etc.)	1 2 3 4 5

To receive the 2 hours, complete reviews for two activities below:

1st Activity Name of the activity: _____

Why did you choose this activity? _____

List 3 things you liked about the activity _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

2nd Activity Name of the activity: _____

Why did you choose this activity? _____

List 3 things you liked about the activity _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

My learning style is: (please check one)

- Visual Learner- You learn by seeing and looking.
- Auditory Learners - You learn by hearing and listening.
- Kinesthetic Learners - You learn by touching and doing.

Was the information presented difficult to understand? Yes No

Would you like access to monthly childcare updates? Yes No

The course materials were well organized? Yes No

I received the materials in a timely fashion? Yes No

The information will be helpful to me in my position? Yes No

Would you consider taking another training offered by Child Care Providers' Helper? Yes No

Return this evaluation to: gcoggs@gmail.

Or mail to Child Care Providers Helper

7819 W. Potomac Ave.

Milw. WI. 53222

Any questions call-414-536-3397

Thank you for allowing us to serve your training needs.