

Why Representation in Children's Books Really Matters

Sosalin Communication Services



The link between representation and language development

When a child sees themselves in a story, something magical happens. As a speech therapist and author, here's why diverse books change lives.

The Mirror and the Window

Books can serve as mirrors, reflecting a child's own experience, or windows, offering a view into someone else's world. Every child deserves both.

Why Representation Matters for Language Development

When children encounter stories reflecting their own lives, families, and cultures, they engage more deeply. When they never see themselves in books, the implicit message is that their stories don't matter — which can affect their confidence as communicators.

One Night in Benin City

A forthcoming children's picture book celebrating Nigerian culture, family, and storytelling — designed to be used therapeutically as well as for pleasure, with rich vocabulary and repetitive language patterns that support development.

What You Can Do

- Actively seek out diverse books for the children in your life
- Visit libraries and bookshops that stock a wide range of diverse titles
- Support authors from underrepresented backgrounds
- Talk with children about the books you read together

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