

Building a Peace Library Assembling a Peace Shelf

By Debra Gorman Cagle

Teaching peace is the heart and soul of Dr. Maria Montessori's philosophy of education. If we are to educate for peace, we need materials and activities to aid us on our journey. As with the curriculum areas, Peace Education is best internalized through the use of sensory materials. By giving children hands-on tangible products with which to learn, the idea of peace and a peaceful world for all is possible.

In beginning to teach about peace we first define peace, and learn about peacefulness within ourselves. We learn about feelings, ours and how to read, identify and listen to the feelings of others. We move on to learning about peace with our classmates, with our families, in our neighborhoods and in the world. Books about peace are introduced and explore topics of peace and people and our part in a peaceful world.

Young children first begin to understand peace when they can see themselves in the explanation. The Peace books listed here are simply beautiful books that allow the children to see themselves while offering thoughts and ideas they can understand and master. Included are some of my favorite awe-inspiring books for gently opening eyes, minds and hearts to people, places, emotions and things from around the world in a low key, young child story book manner.

First read aloud in a group setting, these books touch the heart of the child as he or she later ponders the pages individually, reading alone, with friends or one on one with a teacher. Learning about the world and the people, places and living things that populate it tills the fertile souls as they grow and flower in peacefulness. The following books are placed on our Peace Shelf a few at a time and rotated throughout the year, to be explored and understood as the child is ready. Ideas for activities can be culled from these books by the teachers, and often are suggested by the children as they talk about how the books make them think or feel about themselves, the world and others. The children get excited about the seed of an idea they pluck from a book, and how they can bring their idea to fruition through a classroom activity or game.

Peace Library Books
Recommended by Debra Gorman Cagle

A Kiss Means I Love You by Kathryn Madeline Allen
A Little Book of Peace by Chandra Fernando
A Little Peace by Barbara Kerley
All About You by Catherine & Laurence Anholt
Be My Neighbor by Maya Ajmera & John D. Ivanka
Be Peace by Angela Waterman
Because Brian Hugged His Mother by David L. Rice
Bread, Bread, Bread; Families; Hats, Hats, Hats; Homes & Houses; On the Go; Teamwork; Tools; Weddings; Work: All books by Ann Morris
Bedtime; Carrying; Celebrating; Eating; Getting Dressed; Smiling; Tidy Up!; Wash Up!: All books by Gwenyth Swain
Can You Say Peace? By Karen Katz
Earthdance by Joanne Ryder
Everybody Bakes Bread by Norah Dooley
Everybody Brings Noodles by Norah Dooley
Everybody Cooks Rice by Norah Dooley
Feeling Thankful by Shelley Rotner and Sheila Kelly, Ed.D.
For Every Child, A Better World by Kermit the Frog (in cooperation with the United Nations)
Great Joy by Kate DiCamillo
Hands Are Not For Hitting by Mortine Agassi
Have You Filled a Bucket Today? By Carol McCloud
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands by Kadir Nelson
I Accept You as You Are by David Parker
I Believe in Me a Book of Affirmations by Connie Bowen
I Like Me! By Deborah Connor Coker
If Peace is... by Jane Baskwill
I'm Like You, You're Like Me by Cindy Gainer
Incredible You by Dr Wayne W. Dyer
It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr
Jack Goes to Montessori School by Allyson Collins
John Denver's For Baby adapted & illustrated by Janeen Mason
Let There Be Peace on Earth by Jull Jackson & Sy Miller
Love Can Build a Bridge by Naomi Judd
Love You Forever by Robert Munsch
Maria Montessori a biography for & by children by Alison Ney, L. Seely, C. Sesto
My Daddy is a Pretzel Yoga for Parents and Kids by Baron Baptist

My Daughters are Smart! By Anita B. Adhikary
One Love Based on the Song by Bab Marley adapted by Cedella Marley
One Smile by Cindy McKinley
Our Peaceful Classroom by Aline D. Wolf
Paths to Peace People Who Changed the World by Jane Breskin Zalben
Peace by Wendy Anderson Halperin
Peace Begins with Me by Chandra Fernando
Peace Begins with You by Katherine Scholes
Peace is a Circle of Love by Joan Walsh Anglund
Put Your Best Foot Forward More little lessons for a happier world by
Allison Stoutland
Reach for the Sky and other little lessons for a happier world by Allison
Stoutland
Scared Places by Philemon Sturgis
Somewhere Today A Book of Peace by Shelley Moore Thomas
Take a Deep Breath Little lessons from flowers for a happier world by
Allison Stoutland
Talk Peace by Sam Williams
The Color of Us by Karen Katz
The Daddy Book by Ann Morris
The Feelings Book by Todd Parr
The Mommy Book by Ann Morris
The Nights of the World by Corinne Abaut-Arno
The Peace Book by Todd Parr
The Peace Rose by Alicia Jewell
The Peace Stick by Nidhi Misra
The Sandwich Swap by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah
To Everything by Bob Barner
You and Me Together: Moms, Dads and Kids Around the World
By Barbara Kerley
We All Have a Heritage by Sandy Lynne Holman
We Are All Alike...We Are All Different written & illustrated by the Cheltenham
Elementary School Kindergarteners
We Share One World by Jane E. Hoffelt
What a Wonderful World by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele
What Can I Do Today? To make this world a happier place by Allison
Stoutland
What Does Peace Feel Like? by V. Radunsky
Whoever You Are by Mem Fox
Y is for Yoga by Anita B. Adhikary