



## **P.E.A.C.E. News for July 2020**

***Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere, Inc.  
(P.E.A.C.E., Inc.)***

# ACTION ALERT!



Picture courtesy CNN Health

## Child Care Needs Pandemic Relief Now!

Congress decided to take a couple of weeks off while the rest of the country is struggling to survive in both health and finances. Child care is one of the industries most affected by the changes, with about half of the centers and family providers around the country going out of business, and the ones that remain having very low enrollment. And the parents who suddenly had to care directly for their children 24/7 have discovered how important professional child care is to them and their children. Meanwhile child care providers are facing dire economic challenges, with job losses, inadequate pay (averaging less than \$11 per hour!), pending bills, and little or no help in getting the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) we need to do our jobs without catching the virus.

While your Senators and Representative are back home and looking for issues to bring them votes, please get in touch with their local offices to impress on them the importance of their support for Congressional efforts to help bring child care back to health. The House passed a HEROES Act, with about \$7 billion for child care support, but the Senate has sat on it. Now even the President is talking about some kind of additional help. Signs are pointing toward votes on the next step in pandemic relief legislation toward the end of July.

Meanwhile, many Senators and Representatives are co-sponsoring the Child Care is Essential Act, providing \$50 billion to make child care affordable, accessible to all, with adequately compensated providers. You can find out more about these initiatives, and take relevant action at [www.childcarerelief.org](http://www.childcarerelief.org) sponsored by a group of national organizations (including NAEYC) that care. Please act now. It matters. Contact your Senators and Representatives at the Capitol because there are staff members that should hear our message, by calling the US Senate and House of Representatives Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

## **Pandemic Guidelines for Child Care Reopening**

The Centers for Disease Control have a useful [graphic set of guidelines](#) to help child care providers and the families we serve decide on when and how to reopen and expand our child care activities back to the new normal, when Covid-19 testing, tracing, infection, hospitalization, and death rates permit. The current, far too political debate over when and how to open public schools neglects the child care industry, which has been providing care to the children of essential workers and other parents throughout the pandemic. Please take good care of yourselves and the children you serve.

## **End Exploitation of Black & Brown Women in Early Childhood Education!**

NAEYC's Black Caucus, joined by several other NAEYC Interest Forums, recently issued [\*\*\*A Manifesto Demanding the End of Exploitation of Black and Brown Women in Early Childhood Education\*\*\*](#). P.E.A.C.E. and our Peace Educators Interest Forum are in the process of joining among the sponsors.

We all need to address effectively the need to eliminate the racial wage gap in early childhood care and education that exploits Black and Brown women. This includes compensation, professional development opportunities, and leadership opportunities. You may sign on to the Manifesto individually by sending an email to [p2ppeopleofcolorcaucus@gmail.com](mailto:p2ppeopleofcolorcaucus@gmail.com).

Also view an informative video on [\*\*\*How to Address Inequities in Early Childhood Education \(Video #8\)\*\*\*](#)



Supreme Court ruled to protect LGBTQ rights, the story we created about Ze promotes honoring each individual for who they want to be.

*Ze does not want to be a he.  
Ze does not want to be a she.  
Let Ze be Ze.  
You be you. Let me be me.  
Let everyone be  
what they want to be.*

When the father of a kindergartener emailed us to ask if they can send a handwritten note to us, the father used the pronoun “they” to refer to his child. They loved camp so much that they wanted to send us a card.

Campers created worry dolls, one for themselves, and one to give as a gift to someone that they think might be worrying and could use comfort. We discussed how letting our worries out can free our minds and create space for gratitude and creativity. Worry dolls came with a tag that said,

*Tell your worries to your doll and place it under your pillow.  
Legend says that a gift of wisdom will follow.*

Our campers learned and discussed handling big emotions and standing up for what is right through skits performed by student leaders. After listening to a true story about someone taking a stand against bullying, campers shared what they think is worth taking a stand for. Campers created a poster that expressed a message of social justice. After sharing these, we listened to Lean on Me, while watching images of peaceful protests going on in our world.

To share a story of resilience and honor the history of our camp, we shared a story about how camp came to be. *Remembering Chris Lamm, and thanking Orange County Peace Camp, and P.E.A.C.E., we reminded children that sometimes, when sad or bad things happen, something beautiful, magical and wonderful is born.* [View the How We Came to Be story on YouTube.](#)

It is clear that more Peace Camps are needed and desired, especially at this time. We are planning on offering books clubs, writing workshops, and Black Lives Matter curriculum...and hopefully more Peace Camps! We are also hoping to offer books clubs for adults using *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo.

*If you would like information about workshops or camps, email [peacecamprocks@gmail.com](mailto:peacecamprocks@gmail.com).*

[Peace Camp's Guide to Building Resilience](#)

# Resources

## Mind & Body Studio For Young Children

By Adrie Van Wonterghem

After seeing an increased need in the community for a focus on children's mental health brought forth by the pandemic, Pretend City Children's Museum has created a brand new exhibit to foster resilience and positive sense of self. Deemed the Mind + Body Studio, this tranquil learning space provides a peaceful center for parents and children to practice mindfulness, emotional regulation, and yoga exercises. Focusing on social emotional development, this calming studio spotlights the importance of children's mental health and connects parents with mindful resources to reduce anxiety and promote intentionality. Learn more about this program at [www.pretendcity.org](http://www.pretendcity.org).

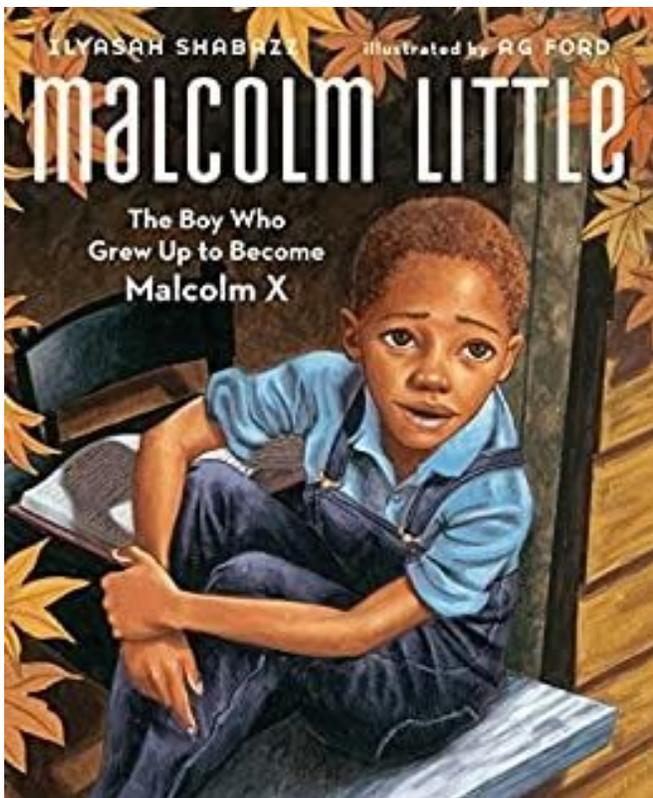


*Pictures courtesy of Pretend City in Irvine, CA*

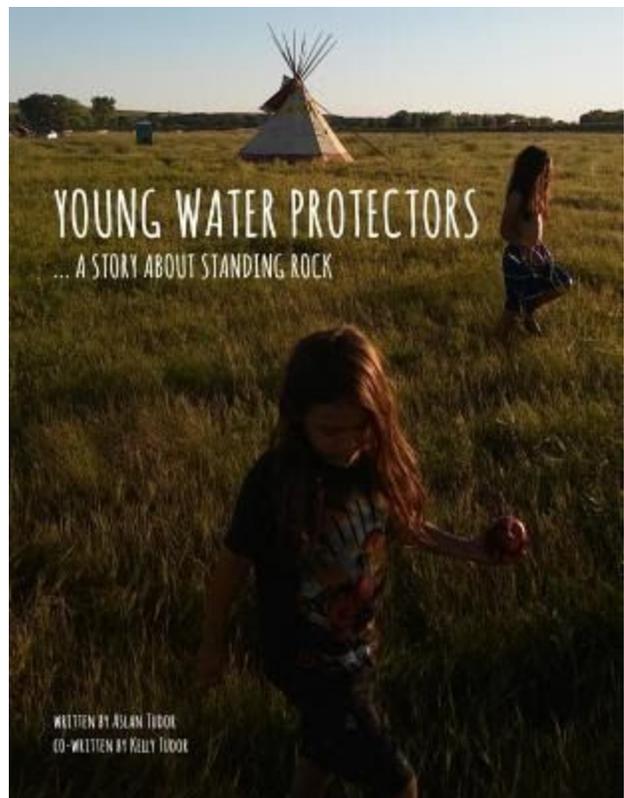
## A Teacher Tweeted Her Favorite Children's Books on Racism and It Went Viral

Brittaney Smith, an inclusive preschool teacher from New Jersey, tweeted a thread about children's books on the subject of racism and it went viral. According to Brittany, "I work with a diverse array of students from all backgrounds, and — as a black woman myself — I know the importance of representation and diversity within the classroom. Creating a welcoming and safe environment for all students means having representation, acknowledging and celebrating differences (BuzzFeed.com)." [See the list of books.](#)

Here are some examples from her list:



*Malcolm Little* by Ilyasah Shabazz



*Young Water Protectors* by Tudor et. al.

# Children Coping with Stress and Anxiety During This Pandemic



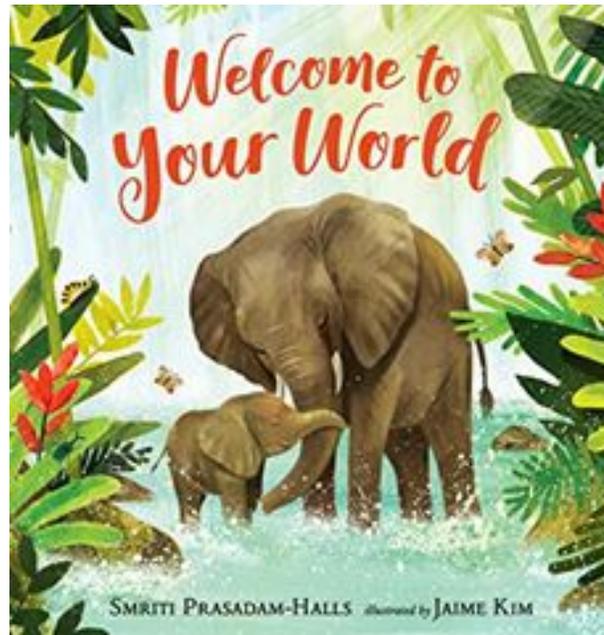
Picture courtesy of Children's Health website

Due to our current Pandemic, we see a strong increase in anxiety and stress in children, especially young children. Schedules and routines have changed and no longer can they have physical, close contact with their friends and peers. As parents and educators, we can support our children in various ways. According to the Children's Health website, we can implement the following:

- Create a routine
- Check in frequently and listen
- Catch the signs of anxiety early
- Teach children coping skills for anxiety
- Focus on what you can control
- Encourage positive thinking
- Stay connected with others
- Seek professional help if needed

[More information on how to implement these strategies.](#)

# Book Review



## Welcome to Your World

By Smriti Prasadam-Halls, illustrator, Jaime Kim, Candlewick Press 2020, age range: 2 - 5 yrs.

The jacket cover reveals: This beautiful book is ideal for sharing with new babies, new parents, and children just venturing out in the world, as best-selling author, Smriti Prasadam-Halls and acclaimed illustrator, Jaime Kim provide both a celebration of nature and a gentle reminder to protect it.

The book opens with a mother hugging her newborn baby while sitting on a blanket as the text begins:

*Welcome, little baby,  
round your mama curled.  
Welcome, little baby.  
Welcome to your world.*

Turning the pages, you follow the celebration of many new babies in the animal kingdom. Questions are embedded throughout the book, “Can you feel the raindrops landing on your nose? Can you feel the waterfall tickling your toes?” The many questions are a way that the readers can experience the book with so many wonderful conversations to share. Looking at the habitats, also reminds everyone that our natural world around us is in a fragile state. The watercolor images are vibrant and fill entire pages. The animal families include birds, polar

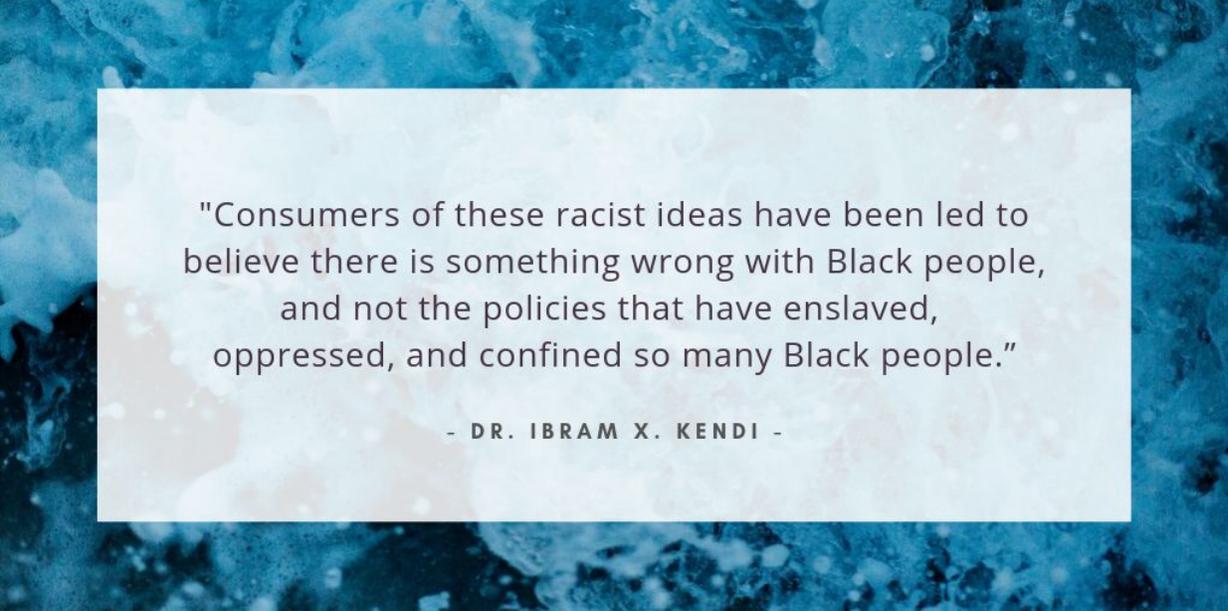
bears, swans, horses and elephants in their specific habitats. There is an authentic sense of bonding wherever these babies exist on our planet. Even the last two pages shows the “original child” now walking along and learning about nature with the words, “Welcome to your world, it loves you through and through... will you love it too?”

Jaime (Jimyung) Kim also illustrated *La La La: A Story of Hope* by author Kate DiCamillo, 2017 and *Around the Table That Grandad Built*, 2019 - both reviewed for our P.E.A.C.E. newsletter. She was born and raised in Korea before moving to the US as a teenager. [Read more information about the author Jaime Kim.](#)

Smriti Prasadam-Halls has published books in more than 30 languages from Arabic to Afrikaans and from Catalan to Korean. The name Smriti comes from Sanskrit, and means remembrance/memory and rhymes with witty.

Submitted by Karen Kosko

## Quote of the Month



"Consumers of these racist ideas have been led to believe there is something wrong with Black people, and not the policies that have enslaved, oppressed, and confined so many Black people."

- DR. IBRAM X. KENDI -

## ***You're Important to Us!***

We are eager for new members, and active members. Membership is free, although you're encouraged to help us as you can. Spread the word and let us know how you would like to be engaged at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com).

### **Help bring our unique insights and skills to the profession and the public!**

If you would like to bring P.E.A.C.E., Inc.'s perspective to more teachers on the ground working with young children, there are opportunities both in person and online. Email us at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com). Particularly on [NAEYC's HELLO open forum](#) we have seen opportunities to engage on these issues.

Join [actforpeace@googlegroups.com](mailto:actforpeace@googlegroups.com) to follow our members' recommended actions and share your own! You can request to sign-up by email at [1peaceeducators@gmail.com](mailto:1peaceeducators@gmail.com) or directly through Google Groups. We hope you will spread the word about the actions by forwarding them on to others.

Since we don't charge dues, ***we count on donations*** from those who are able to continue our work. Pending next month's addition of a "donate" button to the News, please mail your check made out to P.E.A.C.E., Inc., to: 11 Cottage St., Chelsea, MA 02150.

**Visit our Website, [www.peaceeducators.org](http://www.peaceeducators.org)**

