The Montessori School
GREAT BEGINNINGS LAST A LIFETIME

ANTI-BIAS BOOK *Checklist*

All Books Should

- ☐ Be accurate and respectful
- ☐ Be free of stereotypes*
- ☐ Be free from tokenism*
- ☐ Encourage discussions
- ☐ Realistically represent cultural settings
- ☐ Avoid loaded words*

In Your Library

- ☐ Represent individuals from varying races, ages, sizes and abilities
- ☐ Show different types of families
- ☐ Include authors and illustrators that are people of color
- ☐ Portray action toward change

Also Consider

- ☐ Choosing books with a recent publication date - tend to more accurately reflect our diverse society

** Definitions found on back page. **

ANTI-BIAS BOOK CHECKLIST
Definitions

Tokenism

Tokenism is evident when you see only "one" person from a specific group and/or nationality in a book. Another example of tokenism is only having ONE book in your library that promotes diversity and inclusion. Books should include several characters who share diverse physical and or social characteristics, so children can see that these characters are equally important.

Loaded Words

A word is loaded when it "demeans or makes people invisible because of their identities." One example is the use of the word "man" to stand for women - although the opposite never occurs. Here are some examples of ways to avoid sexist language: using "community" instead of "brotherhood" and "firefighters" instead of "firemen." Loaded adjectives carry racist messages, including: "savage," "primitive," and "backward." Books should use language that describes characters in a constructive and positive manner.

Stereotype

A stereotype is an "oversimplified generalization about a particular identity group which usually carries derogatory, inaccurate messages and applies them to ALL people in the group." Instead of including stereotypes, books should elevate, honor, and praise individuals as well as their culture, lifestyle choices and decisions.