

## **At SMFR we celebrate all religions, traditions and ethnicities. These are some of the books that really help with learning about these.**

Many of these books can be used to enrich a theme that you are doing, for example, 'Seven New Kittens' could enrich anything you do around pets or care for animals; 'Flower Garden' relates to activities around growing plants...

### **African Caribbean**

**'Feast For 10'** by Cathryn Falwell

published by Clarion Books ISBN: 0-395 72081-8

a counting, rhyming book about a family's trip to the supermarket

**'Fruits – A Caribbean Counting Poem'** by Valerie Bloom

published by Macmillan ISBN: 0-333-65312-2

This illustrated poem is about 10 Caribbean fruits. The text is written in Creole – 'Half a pawpaw in the basket – Only one o'we can have it. Wonder which one that will be? I have a feeling that is me.'

**'I Love My Hair'** by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

published by Little, Brown and Company ISBN: 0-316-52275-9

a story about an African girl who doesn't enjoy having her hair combed because it sometimes hurts. Her mother talks about all the different styles that she can wear it in and helps the girl to appreciate her hair.

**'The Princess And The Pea'** by Rachel Isadora

published by The Penguin Group ISBN: 978-0-399-24611-1

The prince wants to marry a princess but finding one is not a simple task. There is no shortage of so-called princesses – but how can he tell whether or not they are what they claim to be? Then one night a great storm rages, there's a knock at the palace gate and the prince's life is never the same. This boldly illustrated retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale takes readers to a beautiful African setting.

**'Full, Full, Full of Love'** by Trish Cooke

published by Walker Books ISBN: 978-1-84428-782-6

Jay Jay stays with Gran while she prepares the dinner. Soon the whole, extended family arrive, ready for their Sunday lunch. A heart-warming story!

**'Bright Eyes, Brown Skin'** by Cheryl Willis Hudson and Bernette G. Ford

published by Just Us Books

simple rhyming text and bold, colourful images

Four bright, spirited children enjoy painting, playing, dressing-up, eating, dancing, reading and sleeping.

**'Grandma's Saturday Soup'** by Sally Fraser and Derek Brazell

published by Mantra Lingua [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) ISBN: 1-84444-991-2

Everyday something reminds Mimi of her Grandma's special Saturday soup and the tales her Grandma tells her about Jamaica.

This is a dual language book, available in different languages.



**'Nini at Carnival'** by Errol Lloyd

published by Random House Children's Books ISBN: 9-780099-501817

It's Carnival day and all the children are dressing up in their costumes. All the children, that is, except Nini, who doesn't have anything special to wear. Her friend, Betti, decides to help out...

**'Something Special'** by Nicola Moon and Alex Ayliffe

published by Orchard Books ISBN: 978-1-84616-578-8

a heart-warming story about Charlie who comes to love his new baby sister

**'New Baby'** by Valerie Bloom and David Axtell

published by Macmillan ISBN: 0-333-76632-6

Jay is fed up with his new baby sister. He wants Mama to take her back and buy a different one...until the baby smiles at him!

Written in Creole: 'Me baby sister come home last week, Mama put her on the bed, Then she pull back the little blanket, And I see the baby head'

**'Flower Garden'** by Eve Bunting

published by Voyager Books ISBN: 0-15-202372-0

wonderful illustrations and simple rhyming text

'Garden in a window box, High above the street, Where butterflies can stop and rest, And ladybugs can meet'

## Chinese

**'Cleversticks'** by Bernard Ashley

published by HarperCollins Publishers ISBN: 0-00-663855-4

When Ling Sung starts school he discovers he can't do things that other children do. He can't tie his laces or write his name. He never wants to go to school again. Then one day Ling Sung discovers he can do something extra special which nobody else can – he can eat with chopsticks!

**'Red Is A Dragon – A Book of Colours'** by Roseanne Thong and Grace Lin

published by Chronicle Books ISBN: 0-8118-3177-9

Many of the objects referred to are from the Chinese culture: 'Red is a dragon, Red is a drum, Red are the firecrackers – here they come!'

**'Round is a Mooncake – A Book of Shapes'** by Roseanne Thong

published by Chronicle Books ISBN: 978-0-8118-2676-1

A little girl discovers shapes everywhere she looks; vibrant pictures and rhyming text: 'Round is a mooncake, round is the moon, round are the lanterns outside my room'

**'Mei Ling's Hiccups'** by David Mills and Derek Brazell

published by Mantra Lingua [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) ISBN: 1852695595

*This book is a dual language book.*

The class party is over when "Hic!" Mei Ling has hiccups and they won't go away. What can she do? 'Spin around,' her friends say. "Look upside down!" "Drink from the other side of the cup." But Mei Ling's hiccups keep coming back – until she has an idea. Will it solve the problem?



**‘Dim Sum for Everyone!’** by Grace Lin

published by Alfred A. Knopf ISBN: 0-375-81082-X

A family visits a Dim Sum restaurant and all choose different dishes which they can then share.

**‘The Real Story of Stone Soup’** by Ying Chang Compestine

This is the Chinese version of ‘Stone Soup’ – a traditional story that can be found in different cultures

published by Dutton Children’s Books ISBN: 978-0-525-47493-7

Three brothers play a trick on their fisherman boss and create a delicious fish, egg and vegetable soup out of three stones!

## **Christianity**

There is a big book series about Freddie the Vicar and his cat, Puddles:

**‘A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles’**

**‘A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles’**

**‘Puddles Lends a Paw’**

**‘Puddles and the Christmas Play’**

**‘Puddles and the Happy Easter Day’**

by Gill Vaisey

published by Books @Press [www.booksatpress.co.uk](http://www.booksatpress.co.uk)

Soft toys of Reverend Freddie and Puddles the cat are also available.

## **Eastern European**

**‘Marek and Alice’s Christmas’** by Jolanta Starek-Corile and Priscilla Lamont

published by Mantra Lingua [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) ISBN: 1-84611-510-8

This lovely, colourful storybook follows two Polish children at Christmastime. It highlights differences and similarities in the way that Christmas is celebrated and includes a recipe for Christmas cookies. This book is available in different languages.

**‘The Little, Little House’** by Jessica Souhami

published by Frances Lincoln Children’s Books ISBN: 1-84507-283-9

This is a humorous Jewish folktale from Eastern Europe with vibrant illustrations. Joseph and his family are so squashed and squeezed into their little, little house that they can never be happy. Can wise Aunty Bella solve their problem, with the help of six chickens, a rooster, a pretty brown cow and a very smelly goat?



## Gypsy, Roma and Traveller

**'My Week'** by Cassie Jones and David Johnstone  
published by Traveller Education Service, Somerset County Council  
ISBN: 978-0-9555709-0-2 tel: 01823 356644 email: ifisher@somerset.gov.uk  
[www.six.somerset.gov.uk/equalities](http://www.six.somerset.gov.uk/equalities)

This bold, beautifully illustrated book, with rhyming text, takes us through the days of the week as experienced by a Traveller child.

"I am a Traveller child, my name is Precious Lee. This book is all about my week, and what it's like being me."

**'Shaun's Wellies'** produced by Norfolk Traveller Education Service  
tel. 01603 307712 ISBN: 1899728017

This is a lift-the-flap picture storybook told in simple question and answer sentences about Shaun, a Traveller boy, who has lost his wellies and needs them for a pond-dipping school trip. The illustrations provide many talking points about Shaun's trailer home. Look out for the snail hidden in each picture.

'Shaun's Wellies' is available as a big and a small book.

**'Ruby's Rabbits'** produced by Norfolk Traveller Education Service  
tel: 01603 307712 ISBN: 1899728057

This lift-the-flap book is about a Traveller family who are preparing for a new baby and Ruby's pets. Look out for the toy rabbit hidden in each picture. available as a big and small book

**'My Fairground Home'** by Karen Taylor  
published by Handsome Prints ISBN: 0-9547922-3-8  
email: [karentaylor43205@aol.com](mailto:karentaylor43205@aol.com) tel: 01829 751097

simple text and photographs show aspects of Leshon's life – a little girl who travels around with a fair

## Indian

**'Engines, Engines – An Indian Counting Rhyme'**

by Lisa Bruce and Stephen Waterhouse

published by Bloomsbury Children's Books ISBN: 0-7475-5013-1

supports counting up to ten; set in India with fun and colourful illustrations and rhyming text

**'My Mother's Sari'** by Sandhya Rao  
ISBN: 0735821011

available from The Willesden Bookshop <http://www.willesdenbookshop.co.uk/>

a picture book with simple text showing how young children love playing in the colourful, comforting folds of their mothers' saris

**'The Very Special Sari'** by Feroza Mathieson  
published by A&C Black ISBN: 0-7136-3064-7

When Mum is invited to a wedding, Gita helps her to choose all the things she needs for a very special sari: thread, beads, sequins and tiny mirrors. No-one seems to notice that Gita wants a new outfit too...



**'Rangoli'** by Anuradha Ananth

published by Frances Lincoln ISBN: 978-1-84780-179-1

a short, sweet story about rangoli patterns – a Hindu decoration for Diwali; simple text and colourful illustrations

**'What Shall I Make?'** by Nandini Nayar and Proiti Roy

published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books ISBN: 978-1-84507-978-9

'Roll it, pat it, poke in two eyes, stick on a nose and ears – and a ball of chapatti dough can turn into almost anything! Join Neeraj as he makes a snake, a mouse, a cat and a lion... But his last creation is the best of all!' The book includes a recipe for making chapattis.

## Mixed Heritage

**'A Balloon for Grandad'** by Nigel Gray

published by Orchard Books ISBN: 1-85213-652-9

This is a fabulous story about a child whose balloon floats away. He and his Dad imagine that the balloon will float all the way to Grandad Abdulla in Sudan.

**'My Two Grandads'** by Floella Benjamin

published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books ISBN: 978-1-84780-060-2

Grandad Harry is from Lancashire and plays the trumpet in a brass band. Grandad Roy is from Trinidad and plays the steel drum in a steel band. Aston wants both his Grandads to bring their bands to his summer school fair. But there's a problem – only one band is needed!

**'Through My Window'** by Tony Bradman and Eileen Browne

published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books ISBN: 978-1-84507-893-5

When Jo has to stay in bed for a day, her Dad looks after her and her Mum promises to bring a special surprise present home from work. While Jo waits she looks out of her window at all the goings-on in the street and gets more and more excited about what her Mum's special surprise will be...

**'Where's Gran?'** by David Rhys

published by Tamarind ISBN: 1-870516-37-0

Joe and his family go shopping and Mum warns the children not to get lost. After only a few minutes, Gran goes missing in a large department store. Then the hunt begins...

**'Silver Shoes'** by Caroline Binch

published by Dorling Kindersley Limited ISBN: 0-7513-2754-9

Molly loves to dance and she desperately wants some silver shoes to wear to her first dance class.



## Pakistani/Islam

**'Aamna and Aisha's Surprise Garden'** by Moghira K. Mirza

published by AuthorHouse ISBN: 978-1-4259-9705-2

Aamna and Aisha are returning to Pakistan for a holiday. They are excited about seeing their new vegetable garden, where they had planted many different seeds last year.

The following three Muslim stories have all been retold by Gill Vaisey and are available from Books at Press <http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/>

They all have simple text and bold illustrations and encourage respect for all living creatures:

### **'The Baby Birds – A Muslim Story'**

Muhammad and his friends come across some baby birds trying out their wings for the first time. His friends want a closer look but Muhammad reminds them about caring for all living creatures.

accompanied by a CD-Rom which includes The Baby Birds Movie for whiteboard use; Baby Birds puppet set also available

### **'Seven New Kittens – A Muslim Story'**

Muhammad takes care of the seven kittens asleep on his cloak.

available as a big book

### **'The Tiny Ants – A Muslim Story'**

Muhammad teaches his friends to take care of even the tiniest creatures.

available as a big book

**'The Swirling Hijaab'** by Na'ima bint Robert and Nilesh Mistry

published by Mantra Lingua [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) ISBN: 1-85269-143-3

*This book is a dual language book, available in different languages.* A simple, rhyming text with bold illustrations, the book enters the imaginary world of a little girl playing with her mother's hijaab. The hijaab becomes, amongst other things, a ship's sails, a bedouin tent and a wedding sari.

## Books Celebrating Our Diverse Society

**'Families'** by Debbie Bailey

published by Annick Press Ltd. ISBN: 1-55037-594-6

a photographic collection of children and their families, in all their diversity; a book that also highlights similarities

**'The Great Big Book Of Families'** by Mary Hoffman and Ros Asquith

published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books ISBN: 978-1-84507-999-4

This fun book celebrates the fact that families come in all shapes and sizes and looks at their different hobbies, celebrations, pets, clothes...

**'Two Eyes, A Nose And A Mouth'** by Roberta Grobel Intrater

published by Scholastic Inc. ISBN: 0-590-48248-3

a rhyming book with photographs of people's faces showing how, although we all have two eyes, a nose and a mouth, we are all very different



**'We Are All Different'** by Rebecca Rissman

published by Raintree [www.raintreepublishers.co.uk](http://www.raintreepublishers.co.uk) ISBN: 978-0-431-19306-9

photographs and text explore how we are all unique and that it is important to respect the differences of others

**'Different – Just Like Me'** by Lori Mitchell

published by Charlesbridge ISBN: 9781570914904

Over the course of a week April visits different places, such as the market, Dad's office and a café. In each of these places April notices lots of different, interesting people – people of different sizes, abilities, colours, languages and ages. She also comes to realise how similar we all are. The book features some sign language and Braille. 'As seen on *The Oprah Show*'!

**'Picnic in the Park'** by Joe Griffiths and Tony Pilgrim

published by British Association for Adoption and Fostering ISBN: 190566408-7

Five year old Jason is having a birthday picnic in the park. He is joined by a variety of families, in all their shapes and sizes.

**'Welcome To The World Baby'** by Na'ima bint Robert and Derek Brazell

published by Mantra Lingua [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) ISBN: 1-84444-295-0

*This is a dual language book* suitable for age 4+. Tariq brings some dates to school to celebrate the new baby in his family. The other children in the class bring in objects, such as a box of coins and an aloe leaf, related to birth customs from different cultures.

**'The Colors of Us'** by Karen Katz

published by Henry Holt and Company ISBN: 978-0-8050-7163-4

bold illustrations celebrate the many different colours of skin

'Isabella is chocolate brown, like the cupcakes we had for her birthday. Lucy has skin that's peachy and tan.'

**'The Skin You Live In'** by Michael Tyler

published by Chicago Children's Museum ISBN: 0-9759580-0-3

a fun, rhyming celebration of our wonderful skin, in all its colours

'The skin that you beam in; the skin that you scream in; the skin that you dream about eating ice cream in. Your coffee and cream skin, your warm cocoa dream skin... Your chocolate chip, double dip sundae supreme skin!'

**'Shades of People'** by Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly

published by Scholastic ISBN: 978-0-545-26662-8

a wonderful photographic celebration of all the different shades of skin; simple text

**'It's Okay To Be Different'** by Todd Parr

published by Little, Brown and Company ISBN: 978-0-316-04347-2

Vibrant illustrations and simple text inspire children to embrace their individuality through acceptance of others and self-confidence



**'Something's Happening On Calabash Street – a story with thirteen recipes'** by Judith Ross Enderle and Stephanie Jacob Gordon

published by Chronicle Books ISBN: 0-8118-2450-0

With rhyming text, the story tells of the preparations for the Calabash Street Fair and the dishes that are being prepared by the culturally diverse residents. 'Beneath the dancing lantern light, a steel band bangs a beat. Mischa whirls and twirls, neighbours wave and greet' The recipes for the dishes prepared by the neighbours are provided at the back of the book.

**'Hats Off To Hair'** by Virginia Kroll

published by Charlesbridge ISBN: 9780881068689

a celebration of the diversity of children and their hairstyles; beautiful illustrations and rhyming text

**'A Rainbow All Around Me'** by Sandra L. Pinkney

published by Scholastic Inc. ISBN: 0-439-30928-X

a photographic combination of the colours of the rainbow with a celebration of the diversity of children in the world

**'All Kinds Of People'** ISBN: 1-85707-067-4

**'All Kinds Of Bodies'** ISBN: 1-85707-560-9

**'All Kinds Of Beliefs'** ISBN: 978-1-85707-505-2

**'All Kinds Of Babies'** ISBN: 978-1-85707-679-0

**'All Kinds Of Feelings'** ISBN: 1-84444-312-4

**'All Kinds Of Families'** ISBN: 978-1-85707-756-8

by Emma Damon or Emma Brownjohn or Rachel Fuller

available from Letterbox Library or Mantra Lingua or Tango Books

[www.letterboxlibrary.com](http://www.letterboxlibrary.com) [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com) [www.tangobooks.co.uk](http://www.tangobooks.co.uk)

'movable' books that show how different we all are in so many ways

## **Simple books about different religious festivals**

**'Festivals'** series by Little Nippers

Written by Monica Hughes published by Heinemann Library

Titles:

**My Baisakhi**                      **My Chinese New Year**

**My Christmas**                **My Divali**

**My Easter**                      **My Hannukkah**

**My Id-UI-Fitr**                 **My Rosh Hashanah**

**'Festival Time!'** series

published by Frances Lincoln

Titles:

**'Apples and Honey – A Rosh Hashanah Story'**

**'Eight Candles to Light – A Chanukah Story'**

**'Four Special Questions – A Passover Story'**

**'It's Party Time! – A Purim Story'**

**'Lanterns and Firecrackers – A Chinese New Year Story'**

**'Hope and New Life! – An Easter Story'**

**'Lighting a Lamp – A Divali Story'**

**'Sweet Dates to Eat – A Ramadan and Eid Story'**

