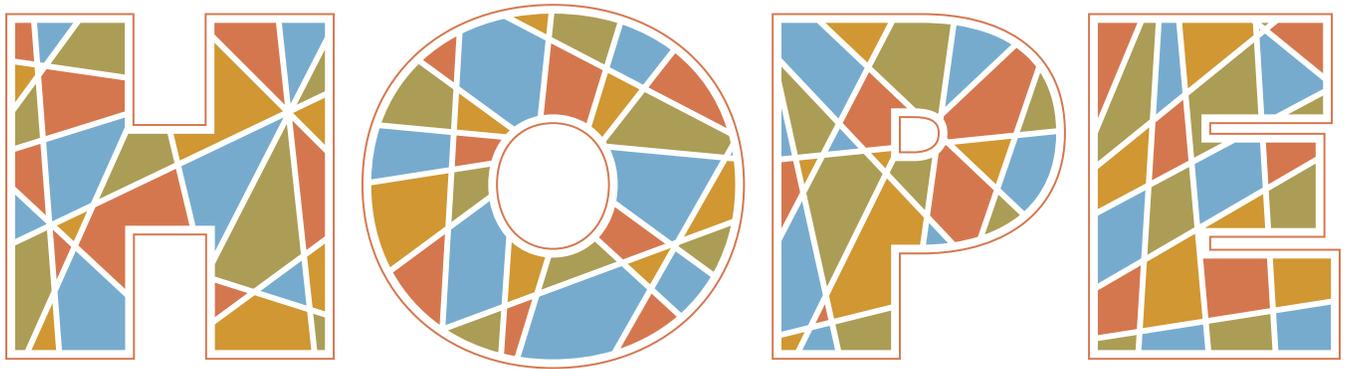


— MOSAIC OF —



— 2021 —

*From Fragments to the Future*

*12th Annual Readiness Summit*

**Friday, March 5, 2021 | 9 a.m. to noon**

A ZOOM ONLY LIVE EVENT



## Welcome to Mosaic of Hope: From Fragments to the Future

I'm excited to open the 12th Annual Readiness Summit on Friday, March 5, to share with you our wonderful keynote speaker and brilliant conversation leaders. Although this format is so much different than the previous summits, we think we've created an event that is engaging, interactive, and thought-provoking. And, picking up the pieces that littered this last year, we'll be unveiling a lasting and meaningful contribution to our community.



Our beautiful mosaic of hope, which you will contribute to with the small tile in your packet, will be installed at the playground at the Omega CDC Hope Center for Families, 1800 Harvard Blvd., in Dayton. The project, designed by Boog the Illustrator, is being coordinated by artist Jes McMillan, founder of The Mosaic Institute of Greater Dayton. Jes was recently honored

by the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District with an Artist Opportunity Grant and a Special Project grant, for her work installing interactive mosaics around Dayton, like the one in the photo above at Mark Twain school in Miamisburg. We're happy to have this virtual Summit memorialized so concretely!

—Robyn Lightcap, Executive Director, Learn to Earn Dayton and Preschool Promise, Inc.

Note: please check for updates of Zoom at <https://bit.ly/2YbpUWb>, to make sure you have the best experience of the Summit. If you need additional help using Zoom before the Summit, email [events@learntoearndayton.org](mailto:events@learntoearndayton.org), or call (937) 746-6333, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Thank you for your help with the mosaic!**



The Zoom "doors" will open at 8:45 a.m.; join us a few minutes early so you don't miss anything!

**9:00-9:15 a.m.** Welcome!

Robyn Lightcap,  
Executive Director, Preschool Promise and Learn to Earn Dayton

**9:15-9:55 a.m.** Keynote "Solidifying our Villages: Ensuring Racial Equity Through Research-Action." Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph. D.

Race, ethnicity, language, ability, and zip code should not determine a child's access, experiences, outcomes, and eventual life success. Ensuring equity requires a collective vision, an anti-racism mindset, and intentional focus accompanied by associated policies. A sole focus on disparities without consideration of the root causes will continue to ensure the permanency of inequities and disparities. This keynote will delve into how we can begin incorporating a racial equity and intersectionality lens to dismantle systemic barriers to opportunities, wellbeing, and excellence.

**9:55-10:15 a.m.** Small group conversations

We'll move into small groups to talk about Dr. Iruka's presentation and what it could mean to our children, families schools, and community.

**10:15-10:30 a.m.** Creating our Mosaic

**10:30-11:10 a.m.** Choose Your Conversation

You choose the topic, from the options on pages 5-9. Click the small icon on your Zoom control bar (see right), then click the **Join** button next to the session you want to attend. Confirm by clicking **Join** again. You can click **Leave Room** to return to the main room.



**11:10-11:15 a.m.** Transition back to the Main Room

**11:15 - 11:50 a.m.** "Delving Deep into Equitable Practice and Policy Solutions." Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph. D.

We will go deeper into how to ensure equitable access, experiences and outcomes in classrooms and communities through practices and policies. The conversation will be undergirded by two recent resources co-authored by Dr. Iruka: [Don't Look Away: Creating Anti-Bias Classrooms](#) and [Starting with Equity: 14 Priorities to Dismantle Systemic Racism in Early Care and Education](#).

**11:50 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Closing

The Readiness Summit is free, and we usually ask you to donate a children's book. This year, because of the limitations created by COVID-19, we're asking you to instead make a contribution to the *Dolly Parton Imagination Library-Montgomery County* at <https://bit.ly/2Yo3DV2>, to provide books for our youngest learners.

Thank you to Dayton Live for sharing segments of the Black Violin Virtual Field Trip during our Summit.

*Keynote Speaker*

# IHEOMA U. IRUKA, PH.D.



Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D., is a Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy, a Fellow at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG), and Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at FPG at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She previously served as Chief Research Innovation Officer at HighScope Educational Research Foundation, Director of Research at the Buffett Institute at the University of Nebraska, and Associate Director and Scientist at FPG. As an applied developmental psychologist, Dr. Iruka's work focuses on family engagement and support, quality rating and improvement systems, and early care and education systems and programs. She focuses on ensuring excellence for young diverse learners, especially Black children and their families, through the intersection of anti-bias/anti-racist research, program, and policy. She has been engaged in addressing how best to ensure healthy development, opportunities, and excellence for young diverse learners, especially Black children, such as through equity-focused family, classroom, and policy publications, tools, and frameworks geared towards early education practitioners and policymakers.

Dr. Iruka has served or serves on numerous national and local boards and committees, including the Brady Education Foundation, Trust for Learning, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and the American Psychological Association's Board of Educational Affairs Task Force on Racial Disparities in PreK-12 Education.

# CHOOSE YOUR CONVERSATION

Education leaders and subject experts will be leading interactive conversations with Summit participants. When the Conversations are introduced, you will pick your breakout room to participate.

## 1 HOW CAN OUR SCHOOLS BE MORE JUST?

In our country, all children’s educational experiences are not equal. For children of color, those living in poverty, with disabilities, or identifying as LGBTQ , research shows they are more scrutinized, their intelligence more questioned, behavior more watched and interpreted as more egregious – and punished accordingly. If we do not know about these injustices, we cannot create policies that protect all youth. We can make policy adjustments in classrooms and schools that promote justice in education for all.



**Related Resources:** [We Want to Do More than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom](#), by Bettina Love; [Me and White Supremacy](#), by Layla Saad

Led by **Dr. Christa Preston Agiro**, Professor, Teacher Education, Wright State University. She works with schools and organizations to address access to opportunity and educational justice and has facilitated hundreds of sessions locally, nationally, and internationally. She lives in Dayton with her spouse, where she stays busy with community activism and their growing sons.

## 2 HOW CAN WE “RECOVER” FROM REMOTE LEARNING?

The last year of teaching and learning shaped us, grew our skills, and stretched our resilience. In all this, our youngest learners have spent one-quarter, one-third, half, or even all of their life in a pandemic. What did we learn? How has our lens of equity in education been refined? What are the challenges of transitioning back to in-person? Join your colleagues for a discussion about what’s next after all the lessons we have learned this year.

**Related Resources:** [The Distance Learning Playbook, Grades K-12: Teaching for Engagement and Impact in Any Setting](#), by Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey and John Hattie



Led by **Amy Anyanwu**, Assistant Superintendent, Montgomery County Educational Service Center (MCESC). Amy is a former teacher, principal, curriculum director. She earned her Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Dayton and Bachelor’s degree from Morehead State University. She is a champion for equity and she is committed to providing all students a competitive advantage for their future.

## 3 MY MOSAIC: PIECING TOGETHER MY SELF-CARE PLAN

Self-care is essential in your role as an instrument of positive change in the lives of children. This conversation is about how to piece together a self-care plan out of the fragments of broken dreams and expectations, and embrace the opportunity to create a mosaic of self-care that celebrates your strengths and inspires hope for the future.

**Related Resources:** The Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential, <https://bit.ly/39i8spq>; Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, <https://www.ecmhc.org/>; Center of Excellence for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, <https://www.iecmhc.org/>; The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, <https://www.nctsn.org/>; Pause – Reset – Nourish (PRN)\* to Promote Wellbeing, <https://bit.ly/3pvytqZ>



Led by **Grace Schoessow, MS, OIMHP-III, ECMH-C**. She provides programming and support for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health services in the Miami Valley region through the Greene County Educational Service Center and the Whole Child Matters Initiative.

## 4 REFLECTIVE CIRCLE PRACTICE

We will experience together a reflective circle, a restorative practice that can be used with your students and colleagues in and out of the classroom. This will include reflective writing/journaling as well as sharing and witnessing with one another.

**Related Resources:** [\*Hope and Healing in Urban Education: How Urban Activists and Teachers are Reclaiming Matters of the Heart\*](#), by Shawn Ginwright; [\*We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom\*](#), by Bettina Love; [\*The Little Book of Circle Processes: A New/Old Approach to Peacemaking\*](#), by Kay Pranis



Led by **Darsheel Kaur**, Cultural Educator, Circle of Root Medicines, the HeArt Dayton: House of Healing Arts. She offers community healing circles, sharing tools and practices to support us in healing ourselves individually and collectively from isolation, toxic stress, cycles of violence, and legacies of trauma.

## 5 PROMOTING RACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Participants will learn how to have organic conversations with children about racial self-identification and how this approach can be promoted using their environment.

**Related Resources:** [\*Don't Look Away: Embracing Anti-bias Classrooms\*](#), by Iheoma Iruka, Stephanie Curenton and Tonia Durden; "Talking with Very Young Children about Race," <https://bit.ly/39nbV65>; "Race and Racial Identity," <https://s.si.edu/2YgDB63>



Led by **Latoya Jackson**, Education Specialist, Ohio State University-Early Head Start Partnership Program. Latoya has worked in early childhood education for ten years, spending most of her career as a Master Teacher and Age Group Lead at The A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning. She is part of the Diversity and Inclusion Council at The A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning.

## 6 STRENGTHENING THE VILLAGE AND EMBRACING PARENTS' DREAMS

This session provides an intergenerational perspective and culturally relevant approaches that create an environment to nurture school and family relationships. By optimizing engagement and communication with Black families and the community, participants will advance social and emotional well-being and academic achievement as they learn to connect and develop trusting relationships with families.

**Related Resources:** <https://www.leadingequitycenter.com/>; <https://equityleadershipgroup.com/>; <https://ohiofamiliesengage.osu.edu/>; [\*\(Mis\)Understanding Families: Learning From Real Families in Our Schools\*](#), by Monica Miller Marsh and Tammy Turner-Vorbeck



Led by **Gayle Covington Fowler**, Chief Engagement Officer, Parent, Family, and Couple Education Services (PFACES, LLC), and **Anthony J. Covington**, Facilitator, PFACES, LLC

Gayle is a dedicated and enthusiastic family practitioner, coach, trainer, and advocate for family, school, and community partnerships. As a national facilitator and consultant for the Nurturing Parenting and Nurturing Fathers Program, she trains community practitioners to become parent educators in their local area.



Anthony is committed to motivating young people, specifically Black boys, to achieve their purpose. He provides informative and culturally relevant sessions for a generational perspective on family, school, and community engagement. Anthony earned his B.S. in Economics from the U.S. Naval Academy and served five years active duty in the U.S. Navy. He is currently a Lieutenant in the Naval Reserves.

## 7 ADVANCING EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

People often use the terms diversity, inclusion, and equity interchangeably. The role of social justice is just as often overlooked. In fact, all four terms ask different questions of us (Lazarus-Stewart, Inside Higher Ed, 2017). The quality or accuracy of the question in large part determines the range of available solutions. Attendees will begin to sharpen their definitions of what it means to authentically do the work to remake society through an equity and social justice lens, by being clear about the language we use.



**Related Resources:** "Advancing Equity in Early Childhood Education Position Statement," <https://bit.ly/3oldFkr>

Led by **Dr. Jerlean Daniel**, Early Childhood Consultant, a former executive director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). She currently serves on the Advisory Council for PNC Bank's Grow Up Great initiative, the Board of The Fred Rogers Company, and is Co-Chair of the NAEYC Black Caucus.

## 8 USING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE TO PROMOTE A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM

In this conversation, we will discuss the intentional act of student/teacher interactions and the importance of relevant follow through with culturally responsive literature, in an effort to create a safe and trusting learning environment where every student feels free to be themselves.



Led by **Angela Shelton**, Preschool Teacher Leader for Dayton Public Schools and Equity Fellows Coach for Learn to Earn. Angela has 17 years of teaching experience in the area of Early Childhood Education. In 2018, she was selected to serve as the Preschool Model Teacher for DPS and a participant in the Aspiring Principals Academy.

## 9 DAYTON REGIONAL PATHWAYS HUB: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In this conversation, we will talk about a new way we can support families, beginning with pregnant women, to get coordinated support and help beyond just one service provider. The Dayton Regional Pathways HUB is a regional clinical care coordination system that is beginning to address the medical and social determinants of health by helping low-income women have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. This model seeks to better connect partners, link families with needed services and identify gaps in our communities. We look forward to hearing participants' ideas on the best ways to connect with families and identify needs in our community.

**Related Resources:** Dayton Regional Pathways HUB, <http://gdaha.org/hub/>; Pathways Certified HUB Institute's Pathways HUB 101, <https://bit.ly/2YjGVgl>; YouTube video Southwest Washington ACH Pathways HUB: <https://bit.ly/3or4m2j>; Health Policy Institute of Ohio Fact Sheet On Infant Mortality In Ohio, <https://bit.ly/2Yo24GE>



Led by **Lisa Henderson**, MHA, Vice President, Health Initiatives, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA)/Dayton Regional Pathways HUB. Lisa is responsible for the Dayton Regional Pathways HUB and leads GDAHA's role in the regional community health needs assessment and subsequent implementation plan.

## 10 WHAT DOES THE DATA SAY?

The Ohio Department of Education just published a web page, <https://bit.ly/3jllEMI>, sharing the Fall 2020 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and Fall 2020 3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) data at a district level. Learn what the data show about our kids around the state, and learn what your school district data show so you can plan for ways to support young learners in the months ahead.



Led by **Dr. Wendy Grove**, Director of the Office of Early Learning and School Readiness, Ohio Department of Education, where she helps develop and implement policies for preschool special education and early childhood education. She oversees a team who is responsible for licensing Ohio's public preschool programs and other early childhood special education programs.

## 11 PLAY ON PURPOSE: BLANKETING THE CITY AND COUNTY WITH PLAYFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

This conversation is about a big idea to blanket the City of Dayton/Montgomery County with playful prompts and learning experiences (“POP Spots!”) in community spaces. This innovative placemaking is intended to bring play and learning opportunities into everyday moments and into the neighborhoods and community spaces where our most underserved families are. We will also share information about a new mini-grant program to help organizations turn community spaces like waiting rooms, sidewalks, bus stops, etc., into interactive “POP Spots!”



**Hope Vuto** is the Birth to 5 Program Manager at Learn to Earn Dayton and is passionate about expanding high-quality health and educational supports for babies, toddlers, and families. Hope leads the Play on Purpose Collaborative and other early childhood efforts in Dayton and Montgomery County.



**Erica N. Bohannon** works as an Infant-Toddler Specialist at 4C For Children. She obtained her Early Childhood Education Degree from Central State University and has served in a variety of roles, including as a kindergarten teacher, Early Intervention Service Coordinator, and as an Infant/Toddler Lead Teacher for Early Head Start.



**Amy Kronberg** is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Dayton and an early learning consultant for Learn to Earn Dayton and Preschool Promise. Her focus is on infant and toddler development, low-cost playful learning experiences, and social-emotional learning for children and adults.

## 12 A CREATIVE GUIDE TO VISUAL STORYTELLING

We all have important stories to tell about how we’ve experienced the past year professionally and personally. Join this session to learn how you can use various tools, like Pinterest, to create meaningful visual stories for yourself and the children and families you serve. You will learn how vision and mood boards can help with creating a visual plan for day-to-day projects and storytelling with others.



**Related Resources:** [The Secret Lives of Color](#), by Kassia St. Clair

Led by **Shon Curtis**, Storyteller/Photographer, *The HeArt: The House of Healing Arts*, a commercial and portrait photographer, who focuses on storytelling through captivating images and creating digital stylescapes that align life and art.

## 13 ACTIVATORS. ADVOCATES. ALLIES.

Systemic racism exists in every corner of our society. To achieve and sustain racial justice, new rules and activities need to be institutionalized. Developing a critical consciousness allows us to use our own inherent privilege to address racism as it appears and be actively anti-racist in the spaces we inhabit, builds practices that interrupt racial injustice, and supports personal and collective equity. In this session, we’ll explore what it means to be an Activator; an Advocate; an Ally, and how to build teams that function accordingly.



Led by **Shannon Isom**, President & CEO, YWCA Dayton, an organization dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women. She holds degrees from Spelman College and Northeastern D’Amore-McKim School of Business and serves on the boards of YWCA USA, Key Bank National Advisory board, Antioch College, and is president of the Ohio Council of YWCAs.

# What is PLAY ON PURPOSE?

Play on Purpose is an initiative of Learn to Earn Dayton, led by a planning collaborative of over 35 partnering organizations, to blanket the City of Dayton/Montgomery County with evidence-based playful prompts and learning experiences ("POP Spots!") in community spaces.

## THE BIG VISION

Our big vision is to promote connections between caregivers and young children, by providing opportunities for playful learning as they go about their everyday lives, waiting at a bus stop or going grocery shopping.



## WHAT THE SCIENCE IS TELLING US

Brain research makes it very clear that our brains develop the fastest in the earliest years. Critical synapses are being formed from Birth to 5 that lay the foundation for later learning. To build babies' brains, we need to empower families to play and talk together throughout the day, beginning at birth.

## WHAT OUR LOCAL DATA SHOWS

Here in Montgomery County, 40% of babies and toddlers are living in dire poverty (defined as 100% or less of the Federal Poverty Level of \$21,330 for a family of three). Many of these families lack access to enriching opportunities for their young children. In addition, these families deal with myriad stress-inducing experiences, including serious trauma. We need innovative ways to support families and children in their desire to connect and play in the early years.

## ALREADY HAVE A PLAYFUL EXPERIENCE?



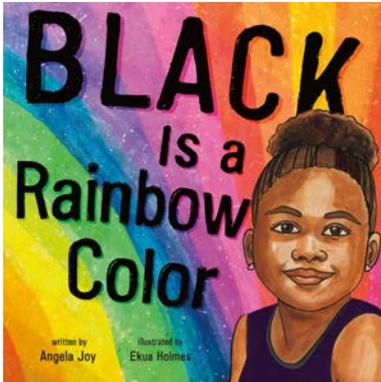
We want to partner with you to get the news out! Go to <https://www.learntoearnadayton.org/play-on-purpose> to find out about how you can join the Play On Purpose Collaborative and include your location in the registry of playful places in Montgomery County.

Reach out to Hope Vuto, Birth to 5 Program Manager, at [hope.vuto@learntoearnadayton.org](mailto:hope.vuto@learntoearnadayton.org).

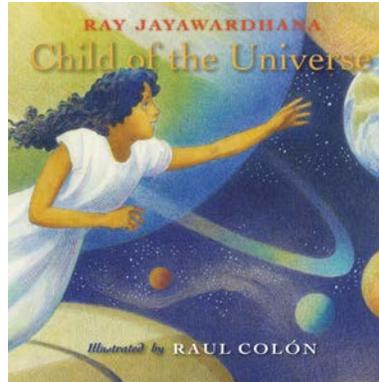
## MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Bring a Play on Purpose "POP Spot!" to your waiting room, bus stop, sidewalk, office, etc. Learn to Earn, in Partnership with local funders, is providing mini-grants of up to \$10,000 to local organizations that want to provide playful learning experiences to families they serve. To learn more and apply, go to <https://www.learntoearnadayton.org/play-on-purpose>

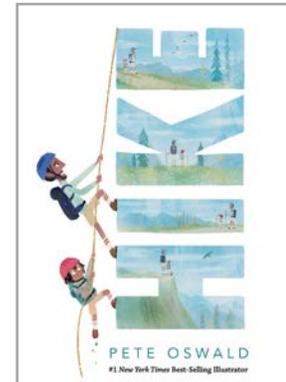
These are all new books published in 2020 that are highly rated by professional library reviewers, and are available to checkout from any Dayton Metro Library location. (Alphabetical by title)



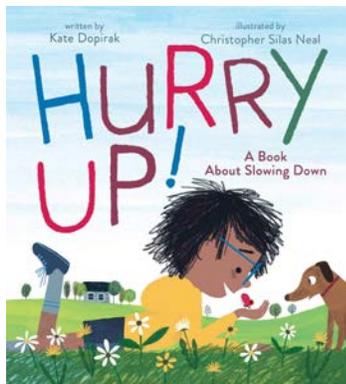
*Black Is a Rainbow Color*  
by Angela Joy  
(4-8 years)



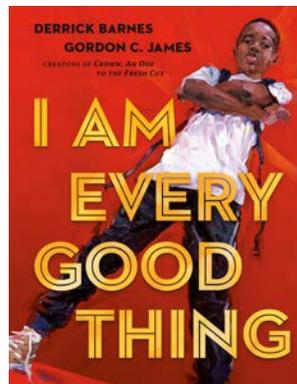
*Child of the Universe*  
by Ray Jayawardhana  
(3-6 years)



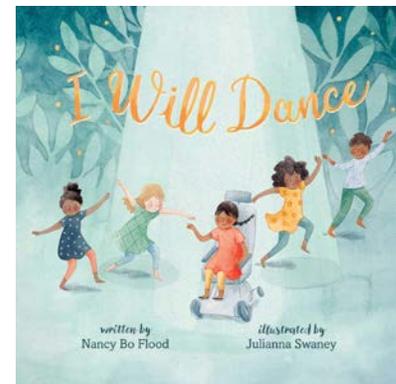
*Hike*  
by Pete Oswald  
(4-8 Years)



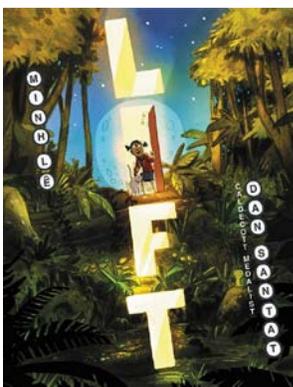
*Hurry Up: A Book About Slowing Down*  
by Kate Dopirak (3-6 years)



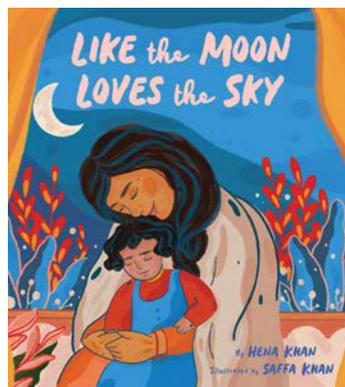
*I Am Every Good Thing*  
by Derrick Barnes  
(3-7 years)



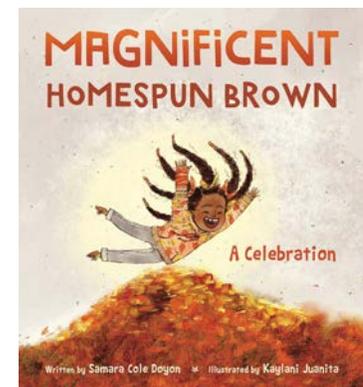
*I Will Dance*  
by Nancy Bo Flood  
(4-8 years)



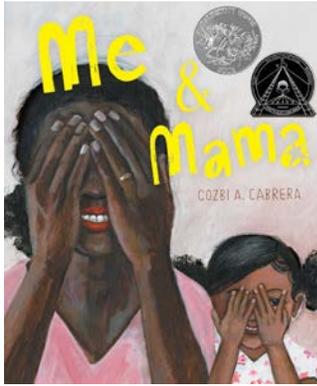
*Lift*  
by Minh Lê  
(4-8 years)



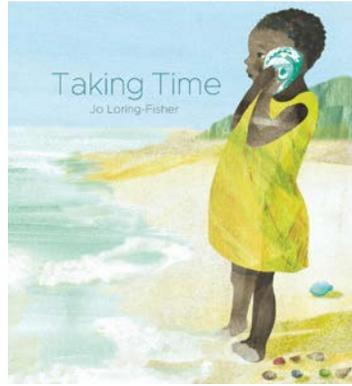
*Like the Moon Loves the Sky*  
by Hena Khan  
(3-5 years)



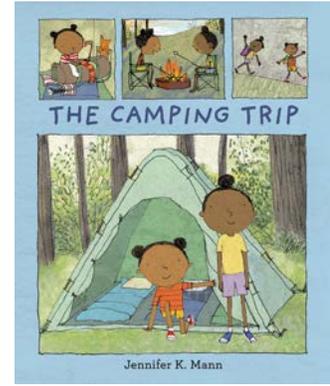
*Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration*  
by Samara Cole Doyon  
(5-8 years)



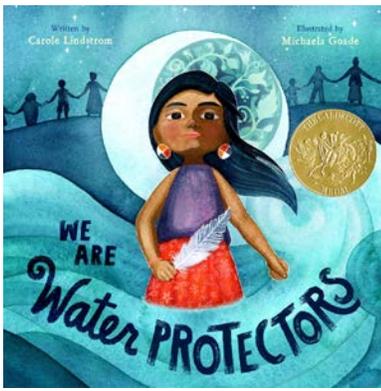
[Me & Mama](#)  
by Cozbi A. Cabrera  
(4-8 years)



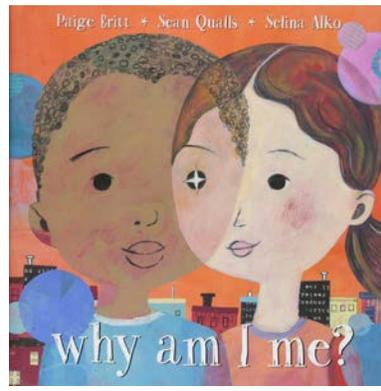
[Taking Time](#)  
by Jo Loring-Fisher  
(4-8 years)



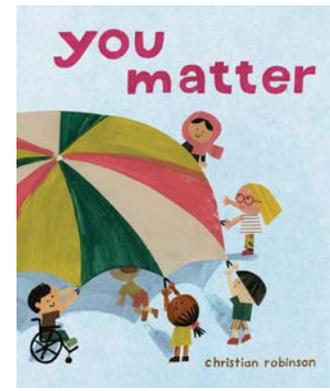
[The Camping Trip](#)  
by Jennifer K. Mann  
(4-7 years)



[We Are Water Protectors](#)  
by Carole Lindstrom  
(4-8 years)



[Why Am I Me?](#)  
by Paige Britt  
(3-7 years)



[You Matter](#)  
by Christian Robinson  
(3-8 years)

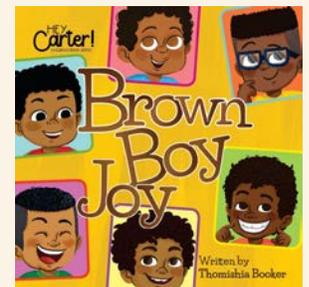
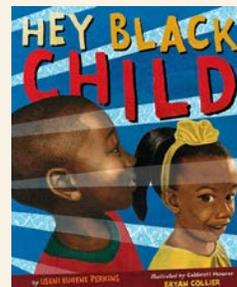
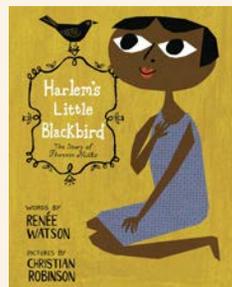
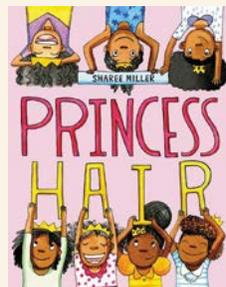
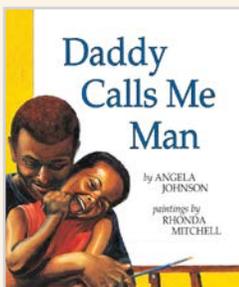
## Additional Resources

Dr. Iruka has recommended a book list created by colleagues:

### *Racially Affirming Books for Black Children*

Sims, J., Curenton, S. M., & Rochester, S. E. (2020, July).

(Age 0-12). Boston: Center on the Ecology of Early Development <https://bit.ly/2M8gfNO>



## *Learn to Earn Dayton Staff*

**Maya Dorsey**  
Equity and Collaborative Impact Director

**Marie Giffen**  
Finance Director

**Tom Lasley**  
Policy and Attainment Program Manager

**Robyn Lightcap**  
Executive Director,  
Preschool Promise and Learn to Earn Dayton

**Erika Pimentel**  
Program Assistant

**Kristina Scott**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Bryan Stewart**  
Workforce Director

**Hope Vuto**  
Birth to 5 Program Manager

## *Thank you to our Summit Planning Committee*

**Pam Albers**, Director, Help Me Grow Brighter Futures; **Lisa Babb**, Strategic Director, Miami Valley 4C for Children; **Ellen Belcher**, Consultant, Learn to Earn Dayton; **Markia Benjamin**, Co-Director, The Glen Early Learning Center; **Trish Burke-Williams**, STEM Advising Manager, Sinclair College; **Mandie Burns**, Youth Services Director, Dayton Metro Library; **Maya Dorsey**, Director of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, Learn to Earn Dayton; **Gayle Fowler**, President, Parent, Family, & Couple Education Services, LLC; **Doug Horvath**, Naturalist, Five Rivers MetroParks; **Nancy Hudecek**, Child Care Director, Dayton Children's Hospital; **Palmer Jason**, Director, Good Shepherd Academy; **Darsheel Kaur**, Kaur Restorative Solutions; **Robyn Lightcap**, Executive Director, Learn to Earn Dayton; **Karen Lombard**, Director of Early Childhood Education Curriculum and Instruction, Dayton Public Schools; **Tonya Mathis**, Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager, Boonshoft School of Medicine; **Swapna Purandare**, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, Sinclair College; **Grace Schoessow**, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Greene County ESC; **Danielle Smith**, Family and Community Partnership Coordinator, MVCDC Inc.; **Hope Vuto**, Birth to 5 Program Manager, Learn to Earn Dayton; **Veronica White**, Early Childhood Consultant, Learn to Earn Dayton; **Noreen Willhelm**, Consultant, Learn to Earn Dayton

*Join the YWCA's 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge from April 1-21, 2021.*

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3aHtSf6>

**eliminating racism  
empowering women**  
**ywca**  
dayton, ohio

## *Learn to Earn Dayton Early Learning Sponsors*



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