

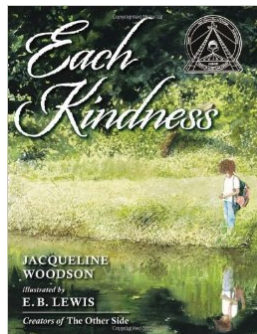
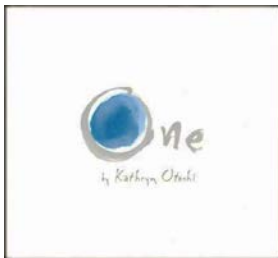


Welcoming Schools

4 SIMPLE WAYS TO START THE YEAR WITH A WELCOMING CLASSROOM

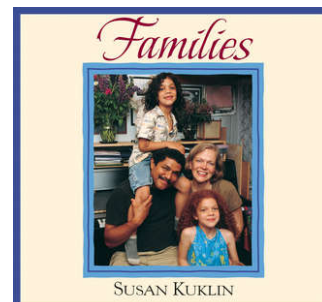
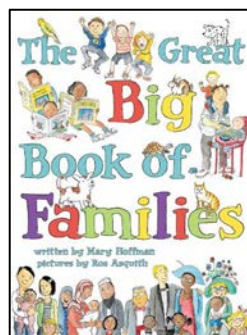
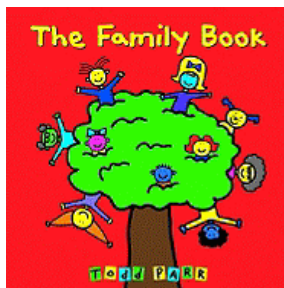
1) Develop expectations for respect and kindness in your classroom.

- Read books such as *One* by Kathryn Otoshi, *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson, or *The New Girl... and Me* by Jacqui Robbins. For more ideas, see: Books to Engage Elementary Students on Bullying and Diversity.
- Develop class rules/norms together that help create a welcoming classroom. Talk about including others or sticking up for each other.
- As a class brainstorm ideas for posters or signs for your classroom and school hallways about welcoming all and respect. In small groups, have students make the posters.



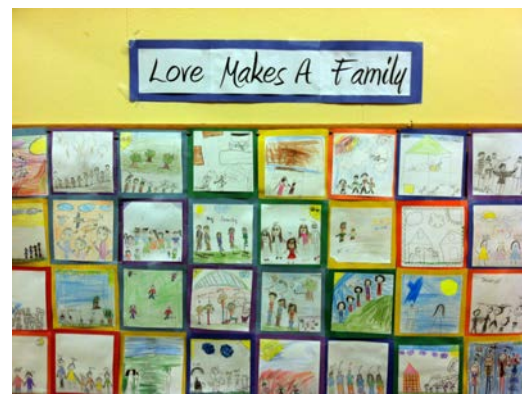
2) Create a display of books featuring all kinds of families.

- Include books that reflect the lives of the students in your school.
- Include books that offer perspectives on families not found in your school.
- For more ideas, check out Welcoming Schools' All Kinds of Families bibliography



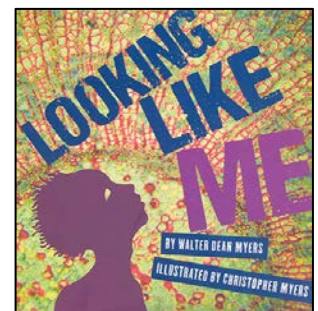
3) Celebrate your students' lives with hallway displays.

- Work with students to create hallway displays about themselves or their families.
- With puzzle piece shaped paper, have students draw and write about what they feel makes them special and proud about themselves. Fit them together in a school hallway display.
- Have students draw pictures of their families and create a Love Makes a Family display.



4) Build community with simple beginning of the year poetry lessons.

- With templates and step-by-step lesson plans, help your students get to know each other.
- Post the poems around your classroom or along the school hallway.
- Feature your students' poems at a Back to School night.
- Lesson Plans from Welcoming Schools:
 - Creating Community in Your Classroom Through Poetry: I Am Poems along with the Book *Looking Like Me* (Grades 2 – 5)
 - Learning About Each Other Through Poetry: BioPoems (Grades 3 – 6)
 - Where I'm From: Family, Community and Poetry (Grades 4 – 6)



For additional resources, download the complete, **Welcoming Schools Starter Kit** with over 70 pages of resources to help get the year off to a great start.