



amazeworks

CAGED

**Lesson for Educators and
Caregivers**

amazeworks.org

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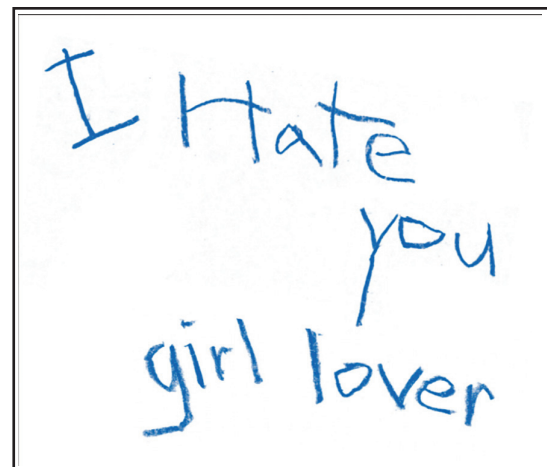
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History of AmazeWorks

AmazeWorks began in 1996 because of an incident of bias towards a 2nd grade student with two lesbian mothers. In response to this incident, the family worked with a committed group of educators, parents, school psychologists, and community members to create a program to talk about diversity in a way that helps children learn about themselves and the people around them. This group's belief that every child should see their family structures, identities, and lived experiences reflected in positive mirrors in the classroom led to the creation of AmazeWorks and our foundational Elementary Curriculum, rooted in Anti-Bias Education. AmazeWorks was incorporated in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Our Process

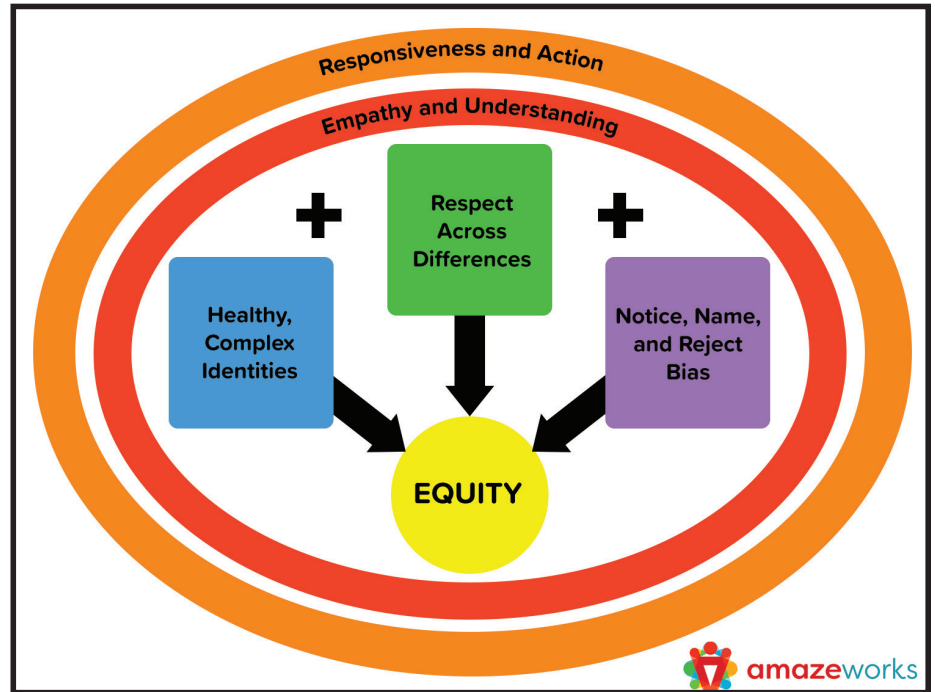
AmazeWorks carefully curates the books we use in our curriculum, identifying books that are written and illustrated from authentic voices as much as possible. We utilize task forces of educators, community members, parents, and specialists to vet and provide feedback on the books and lessons to ensure that the curriculum truly reflects the tenets of Anti-Bias Education and does not reinforce harmful stereotypes of different groups of people.

The curriculum was created using a backwards design process. Discussion questions and journal prompts are guided by the Six Facets of Understanding framework (Wiggins and McTighe).

AmazeWorks Anti-Bias Education Model and Conditions for Belonging Framework

The Elementary Curriculum is centered around the AmazeWorks Anti-Bias Education model, developed from the work of Louise Derman-Sparks and Julie Olsen Edwards in early childhood.

“Anti-bias education is a critical approach to teaching and learning that recognizes that change is needed. Anti-bias educators actively challenge prejudices and injustices. They engage in critical thinking and problem solving, supporting all children in developing a fuller understanding of themselves and their place in the world. Anti-bias teaching helps children strengthen their identities as capable and empowered human beings. Through anti-bias education, children identify issues and inequities in their lives, ask questions, consider multiple perspectives and thinking about their lives critically, growing to actively resist prejudice and discrimination. Anti-bias education acknowledges that while education is a human right, in today’s classrooms, schools, and society, biases are shaping the experiences and very futures of children.” (Derman-Sparks et al. Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide for Change. Teachers College Press, 2015.)



Anti-Bias Education (ABE) promotes:

- Empathy and understanding for self and others
- Healthy and complex identity development
- Respect across and appreciation of differences
- The ability to notice, name, and reject bias
- Responsiveness and taking action against bias, prejudice, and discrimination

Infused within Anti-Bias Education is **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)**. When children engage in discussions around identity, difference, and bias, they are developing and practicing the important SEL skills of:

- Self-awareness
- Self-management
- Social awareness
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision-making