

Teacher Resources  
for an  
**African-centered/  
Global Education Curriculum  
in Early Childhood Education**



**Advanced Project Artifact**

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2012

# Teacher Resources for an African-centered/Global Education Curriculum in Early Childhood Education

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We must change the system of education and instruction. Unfortunately, history has shown us that brotherhood must be learned, when it should be natural. ~ Josephine Baker



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"The principle goal of education is to create men who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done - men who are creative, inventive and discoverers." ~ Jean Piaget

**T**his easy to use resource guide is designed to assist early childhood educators in integrating African-centered and global curriculums into their traditional lesson plans. Research has shown that these two programs of study have been instrumental in increasing learning outcomes for African American students.

### What is an African-Centered curriculum?

The African-centered curriculum can be defined as the adoption of Afrocentric ideology and culture relevancy for use within classrooms.

An African-centered curriculum:

- **Focuses** on the holistic development of students
- **Employs** teaching methods using African cultural principles, processes, laws, and experiences, making curricula more relevant and meaningful to students' everyday lived experiences
- **Acknowledges** that African American children are highly visual, audible, and fashion-oriented and exposure to a high degree of stimuli at an early age, including expressiveness, dance, and rhythm

Research has confirmed that Black children thrive when they are within their natural developmental frame of reference as well as their historical and existing, functional cultural context.

### What is a Global Education curriculum?

Global Education or GE is the study of human beliefs and values, global systems, global issues and problems, global history, cross-cultural understanding/interaction, awareness of human choices, the development of analytical and evaluative skills, and strategies for participation and involvement.

A Global Education curriculum:

- **Requires** students to develop appropriate thinking and communication skills
- **Equips** students with the knowledge and attitudes for living in a culturally diverse and globally interrelated world

- **Features** include cross cultural- awareness, global issues, universal values, critical thinking, and experiential learning
- **Teaches** students to accept and respect different cultures and develop empathic understanding for others, as well as concern for what is happening in the world.

Global Education offers students the opportunity to examine their own values and attitudes and develop the skills and knowledge to fight injustice and discrimination, and to actively participate in a global community at both local and international levels.

## Curriculum Goals

### Behavior

- Promote self-discipline and positive self-image

### Academics

- Achieve excellence in course work
- Set high expectations — no grades lower than a B

### Relationships

- Learn how to build and maintain appropriate relationships with associates, friends, and families
- Learn social skills of coping, conflict resolution, and etiquette

### Health and Wellness

- Emphasize diet and time management
- Develop personal and public safety strategies
- Teach money management and how to nurture the body, mind, heart, and soul

### Cultural Competence

- Develop ability to know, understand and acknowledge the history of different cultures and the norms and values that produce uniqueness in each culture



## Three Secrets to Success in the Learning Process

**Listening** is the most fundamental and important skill

- Ears — make a conscious effort to hear to ensure clarity of stated words
- Eyes — make a conscious effort to see; observation of the actions of others
- Mind — make a conscious effort to think; maintain focus for extended periods of time
- Heart — make a conscious effort to feel; have compassion for the plight of others

**Obey** is the most significant responsibility of student

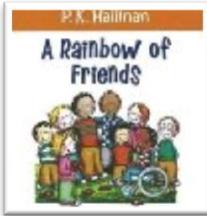
- Study lessons
- Complete assignments
- Do homework

**Follow** instructions



## Pre-K Resources

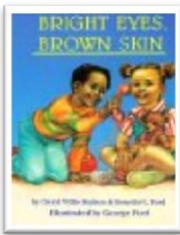
### READING



#### **A Rainbow of Friends**

by P.K. Hallinan

This beautifully illustrated book expresses that each person is unique and adds to the lives of others. Children are encouraged to respect those with disabilities, to help those in trouble and to reach out to those around them.



#### **Bright Eyes, Brown Skin (A Feeling Good Book)**

by Cheryl Willis Hudson

This book, written and illustrated by African Americans, is the story of four Black children who feel good about who they are and how they look as they enjoy the activities of a typical school day, happy and full of confidence and self-esteem.



#### **Mama, Do You Love Me?**

by Barbara M. Joosse

This perfect first book for toddlers is the story of a child testing the limits of her independence and a reassuring mother that confirms that love is unconditional and everlasting.



#### **I Love my Hair!**

by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

This full-color illustrated book is perfect for preschoolers. This story with the main character, Kenya, an African American girl, encourages Black children to feel good about the uniqueness of their hair and to be proud of their heritage.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE



The Language Workshop for Children's Director/Founder François Thibaut invented the enriched play method to teach French, Spanish, Italian and Chinese to kids. He offers stimulating language lessons for babies, toddlers and

elementary grades. The book presents original music, vocabulary-building songs, language immersion, festive visual aids, action games and native-fluent language teachers.

## ADDITIONAL PRE-K RESOURCES



### **Cercone Music Mastery**

<http://www.musicsuccessnow.com/>

Music with the brain in mind. Learn all the notes with color and stories. Learn all the keys in 2 minutes. Learn chords, and then read music as you read books. Great for parents and children. Continuing lessons online.

More information on website - free videos.



### **Artsology**

[info@artsology.com](mailto:info@artsology.com)

Artsology is a web site which uses fun games and activities to expose children to the arts: visual art, music, literature and dance. Its aim is to provide a gateway or springboard to further investigation and enjoyment of the arts.



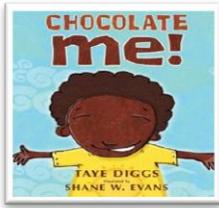
### **The Imagination Factory**

[kidart@kid-at-art.com](mailto:kidart@kid-at-art.com)

The Imagination Factory integrates art with science and social studies to teach environmental concepts. Some of the activities include drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, papier-mâché, and crafts. A new membership option, which features a Hawaii unit, twenty-five additional lessons, and a quarterly newsletter, is available for \$10.

## Kindergarten Resources

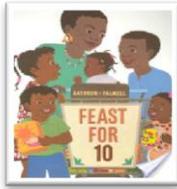
### READING



#### **Chocolate Me!**

by Taye Diggs

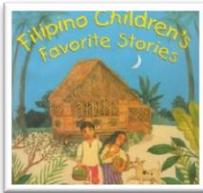
The story is about a boy who is teased for looking different than the other kids. His skin is darker, his hair curlier. He tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else and she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.



#### **A Feast for Ten**

by Catherine Falwell

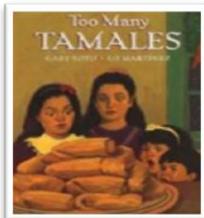
This book, easily related to by African American children, details the story of a family shopping for and preparing a big meal.



#### **Filipino Children's Favorite Stories**

by Liana Rumolo and Joanne De Leon

These classic Filipino children's stories have amused, inspired, and taught millions of children universal life lessons throughout the centuries. Now they are gathered together in one gorgeous volume.



#### **Too Many Tamales**

by Gary Soto

This is a story about Maria, a young Hispanic girl that loses her mother's wedding ring while helping to prepare tamales. The ring could be in any of the 24 tamales.

### FOREIGN LANGUAGE



**Hello World.com-World Languages for children of all ages.**

Games, songs, and activities that make learning language fun. Use Hello World by itself or as an enhancement to any language program.

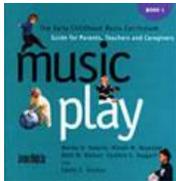
## ADDITIONAL KINDERGARTEN RESOURCES



**Linking the Language**

[linkingthelanguage@windstream.net](mailto:linkingthelanguage@windstream.net)

Linking the Language is a K - 3 program for integrating literacy, comprehension, science, and social studies that provides rigorous, relevant, and respectful instruction; best practice; efficient use of instructional time; higher-order thinking; teaching for understanding; connectivity among content areas, and total support for educators. Subscribe to their FREE newsletter.



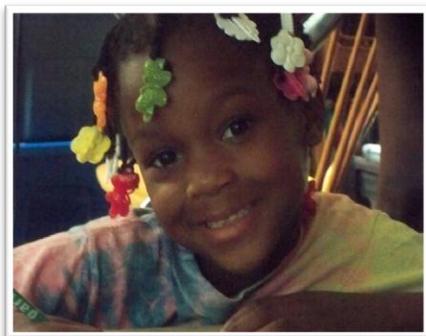
**Music Play**

[http://www.giamusic.com/music\\_education/](http://www.giamusic.com/music_education/)

Music Play is a major curriculum for early childhood music. Includes a complete color book with children engaged in music activities. The book also includes lesson plans adaptable to the individual needs of each child and a complete introduction to how young children learn when they learn music.

**Crafts for Kids** <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/>

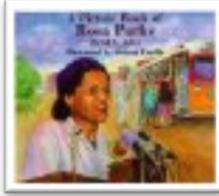
This site contains almost any type of craft project imaginable, all made from materials found around the house-egg cartons, cardboard boxes, string, paint, glue, crayons, etc.



"I cannot emphasize enough the importance of a good teacher." ~ Temple Grandin

## First Grade Resources

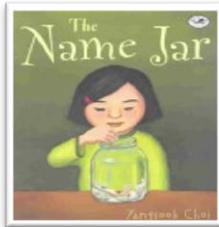
### READING



#### **A Picture Book of Rosa Parks**

by David a. Adler

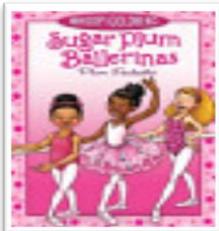
This book is about Rosa Parks and how her refusal to give up her seat started the civil rights movement.



#### **The Name Jar**

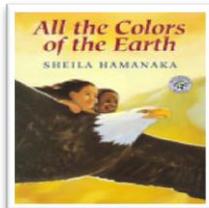
by Yangsook Choi

Uhei has just moved from Korea and is anxious about her first day at school in America. Fearful that the children might not be able to pronounce her name, she creates a game during her first week that leaves everyone wondering what her name is.



#### **Sugar Plum Ballerinas #1**

by Whoopie Goldberg, Nancy Cato, and Deborah Underwood  
Alexandra Petrakova Johnson's mom enrolls her in Nutcracker Ballet school but Alex doesn't want to be a ballerina, nor does she want to leave her friends. She ends up with the lead in the play although she is a terrible dancer.



#### **All the Colors of the Earth**

by Sheila Hamanaka

This book celebrates the earth, children and the diversity of the world's ethnic heritages.

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." ~ John Dewey

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE



**Language Stars**  
<http://www.languagestars.com/>

The Language Stars team of expert linguists and educators have developed hundreds of engaging activities and games around a curriculum structure that builds functional language skills. Call and request information on school programs.

## ADDITIONAL FIRST GRADE RESOURCES



**Gayle's Preschool Rainbow**  
<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/multicultural.htm>

This website promotes multicultural awareness and self-esteem with a multitude of class activities and lesson plans that offer activities with multicultural themes.



**Teachers First**  
<http://www.teachersfirst.com/>

Teachers First is a rich collection of lessons, units, and web resources designed to save teachers time by delivering just what they need in a practical, user-friendly, ad-free format. Sign up for free access to core curriculum as well as extracurricular activities, including music and art.



**Children's Music Web**



**Children's Music Web**  
<http://www.childrensmusic.org/>

A network for children and families, featuring a wealth of web-based channels, archived audio, podcasts, and links. Also includes links for teachers and performers.

## Second Grade Resources

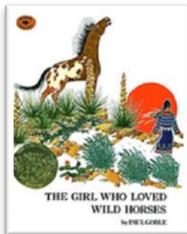
### READING



#### **A Picture Book of George Washington Carver**

by David A. Adler

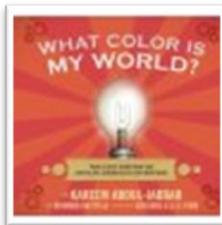
This book is a brief biography of the African American scientist who overcame tremendous hardships to make unusual and important discoveries in the field of agriculture.



#### **The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses**

by Paul Goble

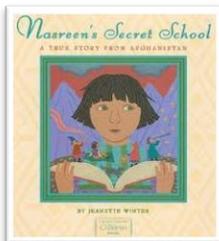
This book, with its colorful details of flowers, insects, and birds, is representative of the love of and harmony with nature popular in Native American culture, and tells the story of a Native American girl who feels such a kinship with the wild horses grazing near her village that she eventually becomes one of them.



#### **What Color is My World?**

by Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Raymond Obstfeld, and Ben Boos

While Twins Ella and Herbie help Mr. Midal, who is working on their new home, he tells them about African American inventors like Dr. Henry T. Watson and James West, giving them a new perspective on their heritage.



#### **Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan**

by Jeanette Winter

Nasreen's Secret School is the true story of a young Afghan girl who loses her voice when her parents disappear, and regains it by daring to attend a school for girls forbidden by the Taliban. Reading Nasreen's story will make American students appreciate the value of education and freedom.

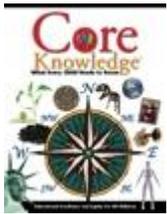
## ADDITIONAL SECOND GRADE RESOURCES



### Arts and Education

<http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/benchmarks.html>

The Arts Education goal for the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is to provide all public school students with universal access to a high quality arts education. Fulfillment of this mission will lead students to discover the lifelong enjoyment and wonder inherent in dance, music, theater, and visual arts, and will connect them to arts institutions and organizations that exhibit and perform the arts.



### Core Knowledge

<http://www.coreknowledge.org/>

The Core Knowledge sequence is a detailed outline of specific content for language arts, history and geography, visual arts, music, mathematics, and science. The philosophy of Core Knowledge is the more you know the more you are able to learn. The Core Knowledge series gives teachers age appropriate content that builds from one grade to the next.



### Blick Art

<http://www.dickblick.com/multicultural/lessonplans/>

This well-known art supplier offers cultural lesson plans for early childhood educators including Native American, Chinese, and Aboriginal projects.



"Someday, maybe, there will exist a well-informed, well considered and yet fervent public conviction that the most deadly of all possible sins is the mutilation of a child's spirit." ~ Erik Erikson



The educational system of a country is worthless unless it [revolutionizes the social order]. Men of scholarship, and prophetic insight, must show us the right way and lead us into light which is shining brighter and brighter." ~ Carter G. Woodson

## Additional Resources

1. *Beyond the Illusion of Diversity: How Early Childhood Teachers Can Promote Social Justice* by Gloria Swindler Boutte. *Journal of Negro Education*, 77(2). 2008.
2. *African American Communities: Implications for Educators* by Gloria Swindler Boutte and Edward Louis Hill, Jr. *New Educator*, 2. 2006.
3. *Perspectives, Voices, and Worldviews in Frequently Read Children's Books* by Gloria Swindler Boutte, Ronnie Hopkins, and Tyrone Waklatsi. *Early Education and Development*, 19(6). 2008.
4. *Moving Beyond Colorblindness in Early Childhood Classrooms* by Gloria Swindler Boutte, Julio Lopez-Robertson, and Elizabeth Powers-Costello. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. 2011.
5. *Other People's Children: Cultural Conflicts in the Classroom* by Lisa Delpritt. The New Press. New York.
6. *Unbank the Fire: Visions for the Education of African American Children* by Janice Hale. Hopkins Fulfillment Services. 2002.
7. *Infusion of African American Content in the School Curriculum* by Asa G. Hilliard III, Lucretia Payton-Stewart and Larry Obadele William. Third World Press 1990.
8. *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children* by Gloria Ladson-Billings. Josse-Bass 1994.
9. *Educating our Black Children: New Directions and Radical Approaches* by Richard Majors. Rutledge Publishing Company.
10. *African Centered Pedagogy: Developing Schools of Academic Achievement for African American Children* by Peter C. Murrell Jr. State University of New York Press 2002.
11. *An African-Centered Approach for the Multi-Cultural Curriculum* by J. D. Rattteray. Institute for Independent Education 1990.
12. *The Miseducation of the Negro* by Carter G. Woodson. The Associated Publishers, Washington, D.C. 1977.

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Photos: Frances Newman - Children & Grandchildren  
Kenya Grooms - Daughter, page 6