Providing books that allow kids to see themselves in the main characters is critical to inspiring developing minds, allowing kids to mirror their identity, and building deeper connections with the themes and lessons in books.

**For Young Learners: Book Recommendations**

Books featuring African American lead characters and/or focused on diversity and social-emotional health: (alphabetical by author)

### Board Books

- **I Can Do It Too!** by Karen Baicker (2010)
- **You and Me** by Rebecca Dotlich (2018)
- **My First Ramadan** by Karen Katz (2015)
- **I Belong** by Cheri Meiners (2018)
- **I Play** by Cheri Meiners (2018)
- **Baby says** by John Steptoe (2018)

### Picture Books

- **Mae Among the Stars** by Roda Ahmed (2018)
- **Just Like Brothers** by Elizabeth Baguley (2018)
- **Knock Knock** by Daniel Beaty (2013)
- **What If...** by Samantha Berger (2018)
- **Far Apart, Close In Heart** by Becky Birtha (2017)
- **Marvelous Me** by Lisa Bullard (2002)
- **My Family Celebrates Kwanzaa** by Lisa Bullard (2018)
- **I Am Enough** by Grace Byers (2018)
- **Love** by Matt de la Peña (2018)
- **Bird** by Zetta Elliot (2017)
- **Lucia the Luchadora** by Cynthia Garza (2017)
- **Hello Goodbye Dog** by Maria Gianferrari (2017)
- **I Am Loved** by Nikki Giovanni (2018)
- **Yo, Soy Muslim** by Mark Gonzales (2017)
- **Scaredy Kate** by Jacob Grant (2014)
- **Who’s in My Family?** by Robie Harris (2012)
- **Who?** by Robie Harris (2018)
- **A Terrible Thing Happened** by Margaret Holms (2002)
- **I, Too, Am America** by Langston Hughes (2012)
- **Lullaby** by Langston Hughes (2013)
- **Daddy Calls Me Man** by Angela Johnson (2000)
- **Can I Touch Your Hair?** by Irene Latham (2018)
Thank you to the Dayton Metro Library for providing these book recommendations for young learners!