

# Family Newsletter

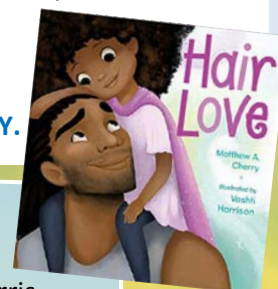
JULY 2020

**Deeply considering the role Early Learning Academies** plays in promoting true and lasting justice in the time of the Black Lives Matter movement, we have spent this month reconnecting to our company core values and why many of us chose careers in childcare. We have asked ourselves: *What can we do?* We can live our company values, three of which are as important as ever: We emulate kindness and integrity with our words and our actions. We welcome all into our classrooms and onto our teams. We are not a place; we are a Community. We can reconnect with why we work so hard every day: because we believe children are the future and we want to play a part in every child living to his or her highest potential and have every ability to pursue the lives they wish for themselves.

We can listen to and learn from one another. We can continue to develop programming that provides cultural experiences, broadens children's perspectives, and encourages an appreciation of diversity. Over the next week, every ELA center will receive the seven children's books (*see the July Book List below*) and a guide for teachers on each book.

We hope you will embrace our core values with us to help forge a better and more inclusive world for the children in our care. If you too are looking for ways to support diversity in your local community, consider donating a book featuring a diverse perspective to your center or purchasing the books below for your child's home library.

We are not a place,  
**WE ARE A COMMUNITY.**



## JULY BOOK LIST

*Hair Love* by Matthew A Cherry

*I Am Enough* by Grace Byers

*Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed

*Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World* by Vashit Harrison

*What if We Were All the Same* by CM Harris

*I Got the Rhythm* by Connie Schofield Morrison

*Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt De La Peña

### CURRICULUM CORNER

Our school libraries are receiving new books which feature diverse characters. Accompanying the books will be curriculum cards for teachers to help foster diversity and racial equality.

Here is a sample of a new book and curriculum objective.

**What if We Were All the Same!** By C.M. Harris

In this book we learn about the importance of everyone's differences. What differences do you have? Let your child look in a mirror and look for what makes them unique. Ask your child what their favorite thing is about themselves. Then have them draw a picture of themselves to hang up somewhere around the house.

### Did you know?

#### Developmental Milestones

##### PARALLEL PLAY

Around two years old, your child will start to parallel play. Parallel play is when two or more children are playing next to each other but are not influencing each other's play. The children are playing with the same toy but not together with the toy. They may influence each other or look to see what the other is doing. Parallel play is important because it helps with beginning language development and to create social interactions. In addition, by watching a peer they can learn new skills, develop their fine and gross motor skills and increase their confidence.