



Fostering an Inclusive Environment in School and Beyond

Julie Thompson

Honouring our Land and Territory

We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.



Overview

- What is inclusion?
- What does it look like?
- What does it sound like?
- What does it feel like?
- How do we work towards inclusion?



“It is not our differences
that divide us. It is our
inability to recognize,
accept and celebrate those
differences.”

Audre Lorde



What Does it Mean to Be Inclusive?

- Inclusion is seen as a universal human right.
- No one is excluded, marginalized, or left out.
- Everyone has a right to be heard, seen, and included.



Everyone has a seat at the table.



What does Inclusion look like??

- Educators that reflect diverse populations within the school even if your population is not diverse
- When you walk in the school, what images do you see on the wall
- What holidays are celebrated and acknowledged within the walls
- Books within the library and that are read within the class – can all students see themselves and their families reflected



Culturally Relevant & Responsive Education

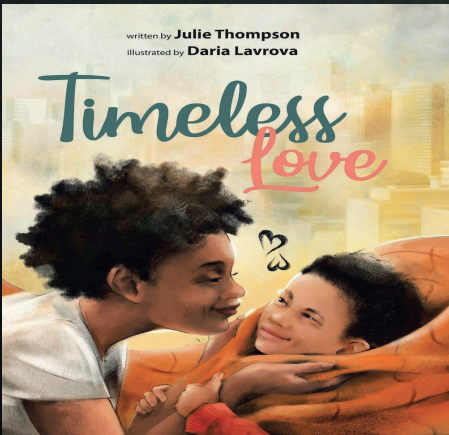
*“Culturally responsive pedagogy” ...goes beyond recognizing **uniqueness** to **intentionally nurturing** it in order to create and facilitate effective conditions for learning. School and classroom practices **must be reflective of and responsive to the diversity of students and staff.***

–
Ontario’s Education Equity Action Plan (2017) p.16

My Journey!!

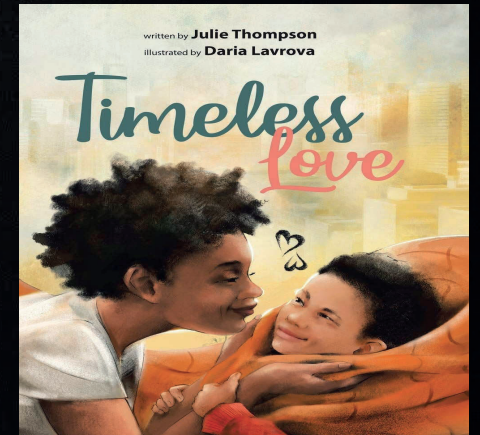


You can't be what
you can't see.



Marian Wright Edelman

quote fancy



What Does Inclusion Sound Like ??

- The words/language that we use
 - correct pronouns
 - various family structures
 - various gender identities
 - non-dominant narratives heard



What does Inclusion Feel Like??

Visualization Activity:

1. Get comfortable
2. Close your eyes
3. Take a few breaths
4. Listen ...





Voice that
matters

Sense of
belonging



Room for
you



How Do We Assist Our Children in Becoming MORE Inclusive?

- **Role Model** – Children follow what we do more than what we say
- **Teach compassion** – provide opportunities to children to practice
- **Explain differences** – Don't ignore them!!
- **Use Literature** – Do a book audit at your school and home. Books are a great vehicle to explore differences.



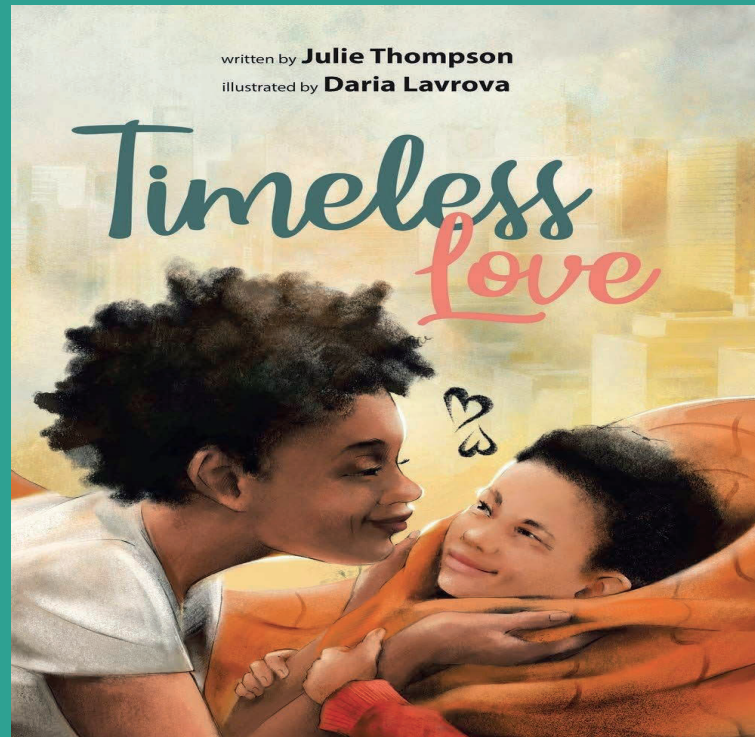




Resources

- *Raising an Inclusive Child* – Bright Horizons
- *Diversity Kids* (Kids talk about inclusion) – youtube
- *Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan* (2017) p.16

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Questions



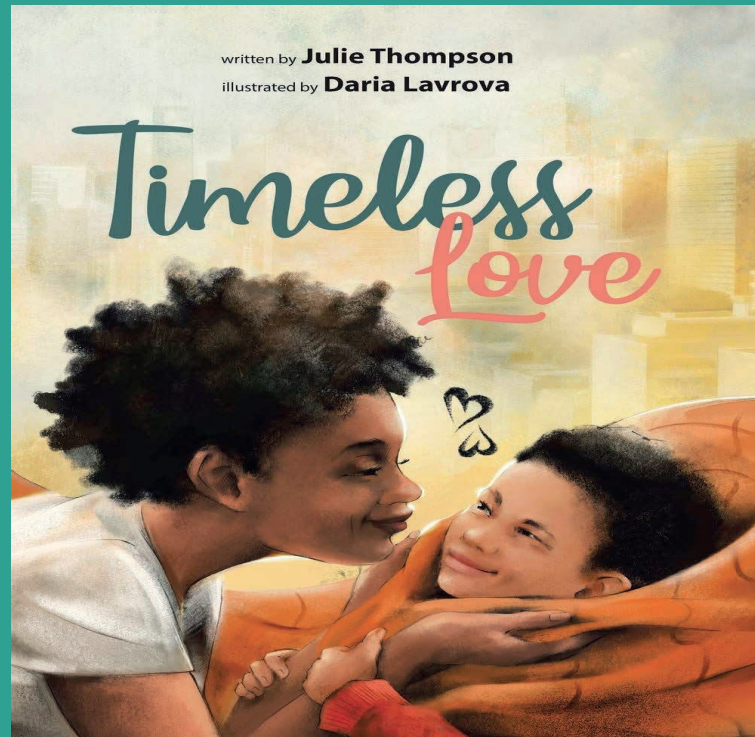




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Questions

