

The Impact and Benefits of Implementing an Anti-Bias Lending Library

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INTRODUCTION

4 Goals of Anti-bias Education:

- 1: Positive self-identity
- 2: Appreciating Diversity
- 3: Recognizing justice
- 4: Activism

Incorporating anti-bias themed children's books into preschool students requires concerted effort from educators and parents. One possible solution is the implementation of an anti-bias lending library for students, teachers, and parents (Derman-Sparks).

METHODOLOGY

Through an action research approach, I collected qualitative data via survey and focus group to investigate the impact of an anti-bias library at Greendell, with the goal of measuring its benefits experimentally and identifying common themes and perspectives post-implementation of the anti-bias lending library.

- Action research
- Survey
- Focus Group
- Qualitative research

CONCLUSION/ANALYSIS

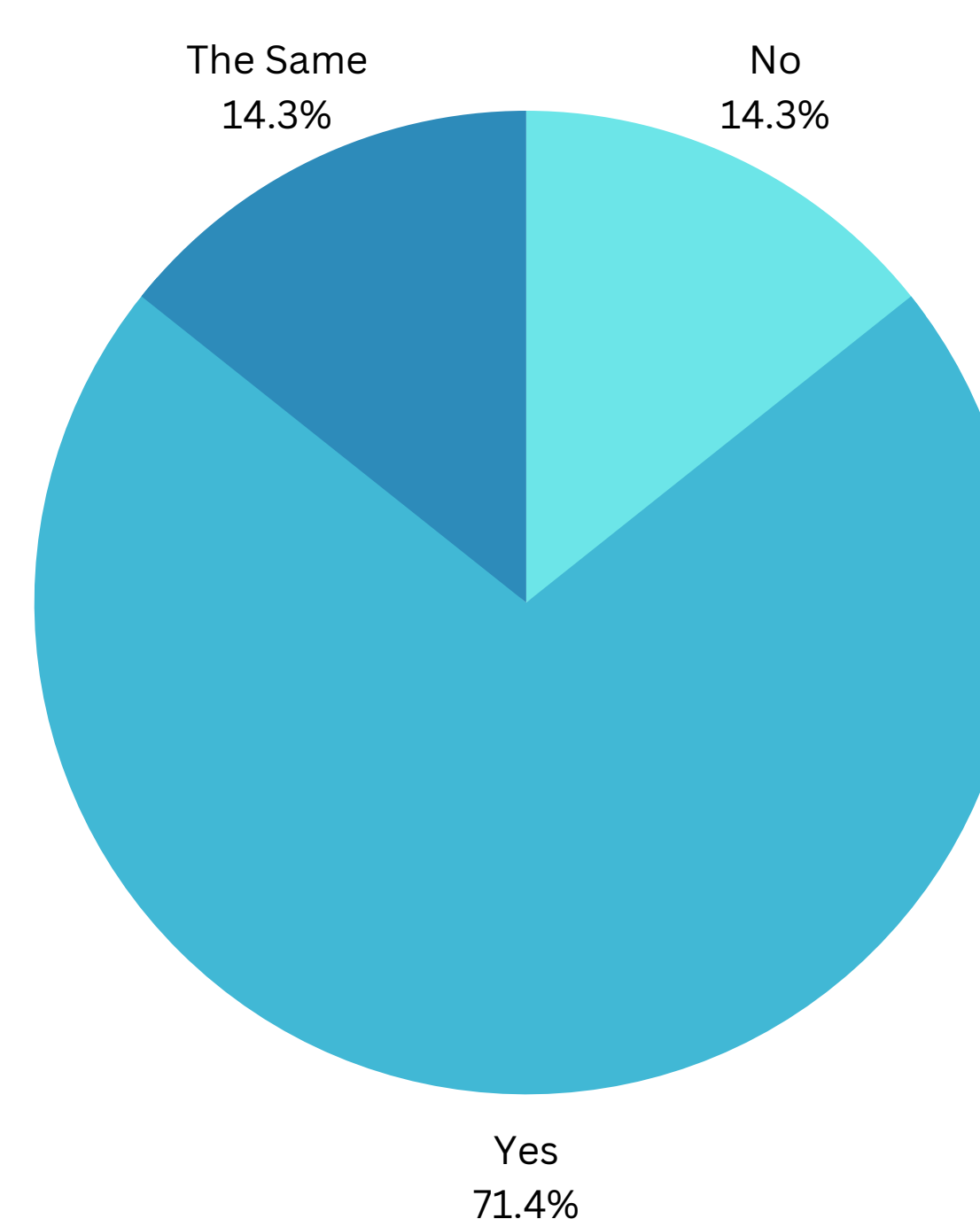
- After the Anti-bias lending library was implemented 71.4% of parents had more anti bias conversations with there children
- 64.3% of parents thought it was easier to have these conversations after they read the anti-bias books with their children
- 57.2% of parents noticed changes in there children's attitude after reading
- Many parents thought it was hard to check out/return the books this is because we weren't given the materials we were told would be provided from the start that would have made this process easier

REFERENCES

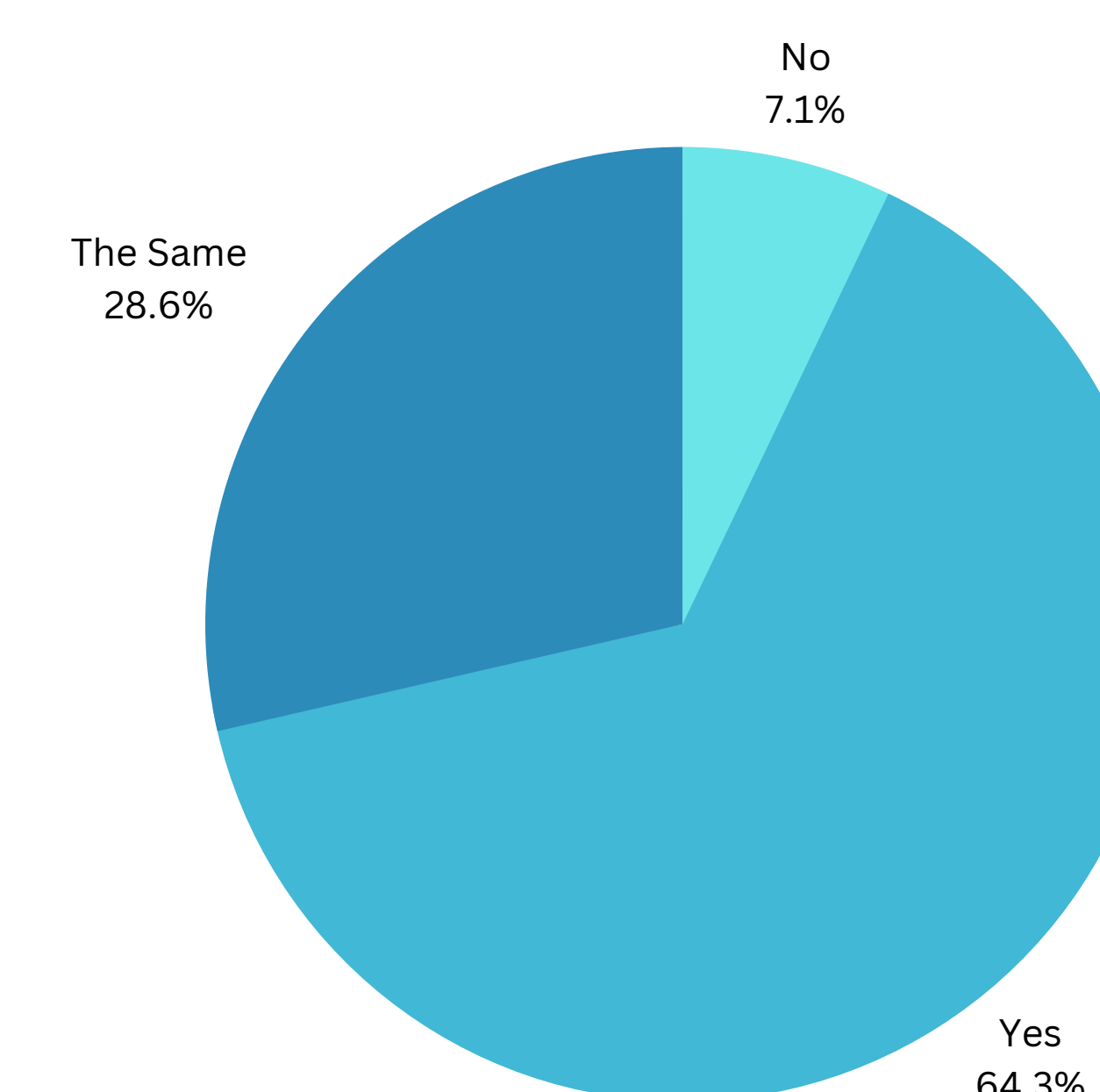
Derman-Sparks, L. (n.d.). *Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books*. Teaching For Change

RESULTS/FINDINGS

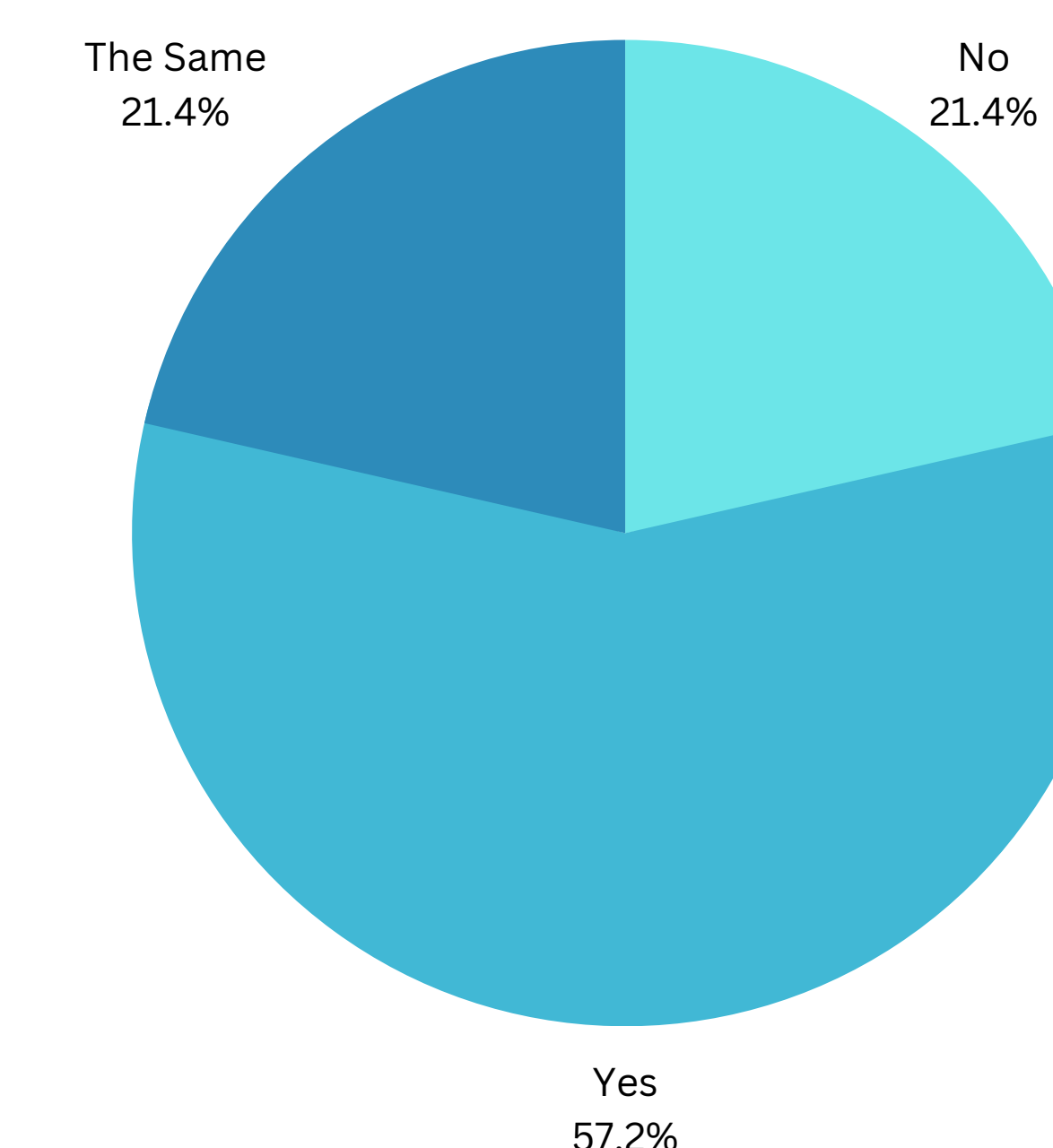
DID YOU HAVE MORE CONVERSATIONS AROUND ANTI-BIAS TOPICS WITH YOUR CHILDREN AFTER UTILIZING THE ANTI-BIAS BOOKS?



WAS IT EASIER TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS AFTER YOU AND YOUR CHILD READ AN ANTI-BIAS BOOK?



DID YOU NOTICE ANY CHANGES IN YOUR CHILDREN'S ATTITUDES (STATEMENTS, QUESTIONS) AFTER READING ANTI BIAS BOOKS?



Quotes From Participants In Study:


"I went home and counted books with animals and books with people of color and there were more books with animals. We started reading some of the books on the list and talking about how people look different but also have a lot in common. We all feel sad, happy, hurt, joyful, and we all laugh and cry. My child started pointing this out without prompting when reading other books."

"My child stopped referring to clothes being "for girls" or "for boys"!"

Book Nook Examples:

Anti-Bias Book Nook

Identity, Diversity, Justice & Activism



Just Ask
By: Sonia Sotomayor
Sonia and her friends decide to plant a garden but since they all are different, each one of them contributes in a different way. Just as every plant in a garden is different, Sonia and her friends are each unique individuals but they also have two things in common: they love to ask questions so they can learn about each other and they enjoy contributing to the garden in different ways. So, while building the garden together, Sonia and her friends share their differences and make connections with each other.

Pre-reading questions to help anticipate what the book is about!

- From looking at the cover, what do you think this book is about? Do you have a garden at home, if so what does it look like?
- This book is about differences amongst friends. How are you different from your friends? How are you the same?

While reading & post reading questions to help students understand the book!

- What character in this story is most similar to you? How so?
- Do you like asking questions? If you could ask any character a question, what would you ask them?
- Read the quote, "... all the ways we are different make our neighborhood ... more interesting and fun (page 27)" How are you different than your family? Your classmates? How do everyone's differences make your family, school and neighborhood more interesting and fun?

Anti-Bias Book Nook

Identity, Diversity, Justice & Activism

Extension Activities to further skill and concept development:

1. Parents should pass out a sheet of paper to their child that has a stem for a flower on it. Then have your child draw a bud for the center of the flower where they will write their name. Then they should draw leaves surrounding the bud. In each petal they should write a word or phrase that makes them special. After this is done, they can decorate their flower however they want. Also this activity would work perfectly in a classroom for students.
2. The title of the book is *Just Ask*. We already know that everyone one has their own unique qualities but sometimes it is hard to understand everyone's differences. As a class or family talk about ways to ask about differences rather than ignore them. If your child is curious about someone who is in a wheelchair, discuss what questions they could ask. Every child will write a respectful question down on their own sheet of paper to ask a classmate or family member. (Once the group conversation is over the children will be broken up into pairs to ask their respectful question).

The Importance of Anti-bias Efforts

Anti bias education is extremely important for a child's education. When choosing books you want your child to read, make sure they contain cultural, racial, and experiential diversity. Avoid books that contain a single story, then we risk a critical misunderstanding that influences the way people view one another. People and communities are complex and children's books should reflect and embrace diversity. Children's books, when thoughtfully selected, broaden your and your child's horizons. Do not shy away from a book that will spark difficult conversations because that is how you and your child can grow together. Embrace the difficult conversations which will help build community in your child's school and in the broader community. Anti bias education is one of the best ways to introduce your child to diversity, build a safe community and raise a caring child.

Suggestions:

1. Figure out what your child thinks through listening and asking questions. Pay attention to their ideas and the feelings they express.
2. Always tell the truth. Use simple sentences that children can understand and provide them with accurate information about the issue you are discussing. And, of course, check to see what they understand, how they feel, and what they think about this information.
3. Purchase children's books intentionally. Be aware of the stereotypes and messages being conveyed to children in books or by the selection of books available.
4. Finally, don't shy away from discussing social justice issues that exist in your community. What is fair or unfair, kind or hurtful about a situation? Talk about signs they can look for and people they can go to for help.

IMPLICATIONS/NEXT STEPS

- Make sure every student is checking a book out each week. To do this we need:
 - More books + book nooks
 - A better distribution system
- Implement more anti bias books into Teen Time curriculum
- Implement an anti bias lending library into a local children's library

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