

# ABOUT THIS CURRICULUM

*Anti-Bias Building Blocks: An Elementary Curriculum* is divided into five instructional units. Each unit has lessons grouped for Grades K-2 and for Grades 3-5. Although there might be instances when using a lesson or lessons from a particular unit out of sequence may be useful, we recommend that whenever possible, the units be used sequentially. By progressing through the units in this manner, students build a strong foundation for analyzing and confronting bias.

During the elementary school years, the social and emotional development of students is a core part of their school experience. We suggest making *Anti-Bias Building Blocks* a regular part of your weekly lesson plans. With twenty-five lessons for each grade level, it is ideal to do one lesson per week. Each lesson has children's literature suggestions as well as writing activities and fits within English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. The curriculum also connects with social studies as well as other subject areas. An integrated approach to anti-bias education is significantly more powerful than tying it to one subject area.

## OVERVIEW OF UNITS

Below is an overview of the curriculum, including the goals for each section as well as the specific lessons for each grade level.

**Unit I: Creating a Safe and Comfortable Classroom Environment** provides lessons to build a solid foundation for the students' social and emotional skill development. The lessons help students feel safe in their classrooms, develop the skills to communicate effectively, gain a vocabulary for the different feelings that may emerge and learn how to work collaboratively in small and large groups.

**Unit II: Understanding My Strengths, Skills and Identity** provides lessons to build a strong sense of self in children, exploring the concepts of identity and differences. The lessons help students understand factors that shape their identity, acknowledge their likes and dislikes and reflect on the differences between themselves and their classmates.

**Unit III: Understanding and Appreciating Differences** provides lessons to explore students' cultural and other identities and differences so that they can learn to play and work together effectively. The lessons help students reflect on their own cultural identities, learn about the culture of others and understand when differences arise.

**Unit IV: Understanding Bias and Discrimination** provides lessons to create a viable and inclusive school and classroom climate by helping students understand bias and discrimination. The lessons help students explore bullying, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination (and the differences between those) and reflect on the cycle of inequality.

**Unit V: Confronting/Challenging Bias and Bullying** provides lessons to empower students to do something about the bias, discrimination and bullying they encounter. The lessons help students learn how to be an ally on an individual level and by working with others, explore social change movements over history and work on a social action project that improves their school and community.