

Promoting Active Citizenship in the Early Childhood Classroom Through the Incorporation of Social Studies & Children's Literature

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& Teacher Educators**

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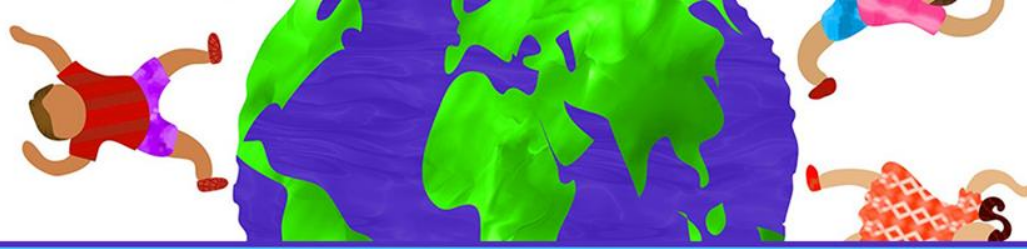


Today's Agenda

- Brainstorming session
- Current research/best practices for teaching active citizenship
- Incorporating children's literature
- Instructional Strategies/Application
- Case Study Discussion



Brainstorming Activity



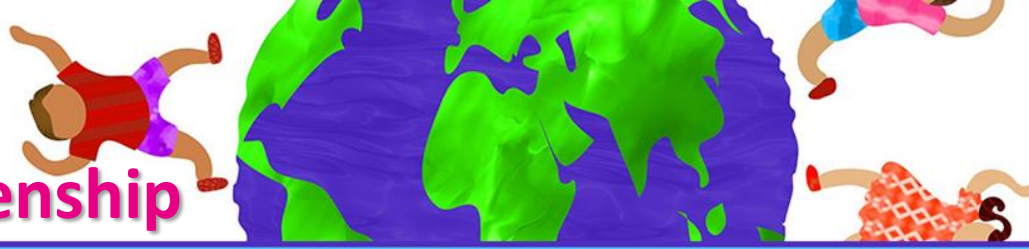
- With a partner, record words & phrases connected to active citizenship for young children.
- List titles of children's literature to address active citizenship in the Early Childhood classroom.

Current Research & Best Practices

- “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 and was the first legal document protecting human rights (United Nations 2015b)” (Montgomery et al., 2017, p. 3).
- The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) stated that human rights education “should be integrated throughout the educational experience of all learners from early childhood through advanced education and lifelong learning” (NCSS 2015) (Montgomery et al., 2017, p. 3).



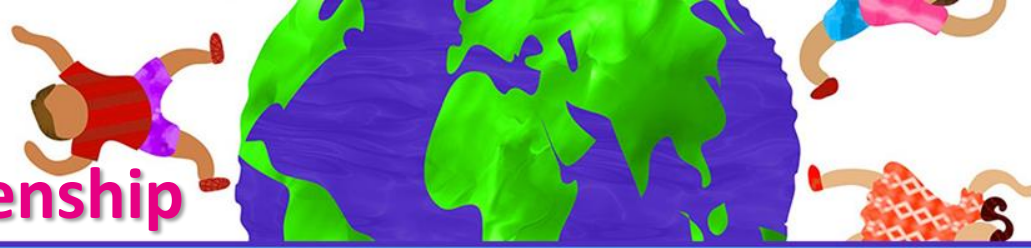
Current Research & Best Practices: Active Citizenship



- “What type of citizen do we need to support an effective democratic society?”
 - Personally Responsible Citizen
 - Participatory Citizen
 - Justice-Oriented Citizen

(Westheimer & Kahne, 2004, p. 3-4)

Current Research & Best Practices: Active Citizenship



Type of Citizen	Personally Responsible	Participatory	Justice-Oriented
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Character counts• Be responsible for your actions• Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be an active member of a group within civil society• Organize and manage efforts• Work with agencies (e.g., local government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critically analyze problems to find “root” causes• Seeks out and addresses areas of injustice (e.g., race, class, gender, poverty, pollution)• Makes an impact through systematic change
Example Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donate to the holiday food drive, clothing drive, or Humane Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organize and manage the holiday food drive or clothing drive; assist at the Humane Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a petition for businesses to use environmentally friendly products and provide them with options (e.g., eliminating the use of Styrofoam)• Start an anti-bullying program

Adapted from: <http://illinoiscivics.blogspot.com/2020/04/what-kind-of-citizen-during-pandemic.html>

Paul, C. (2018). *You are mighty: A guide to changing the world*. Bloomsbury Children’s Books.

Current Research & Best Practices: Active Citizenship

- Within today's society, it is imperative for children to practice active citizenship by embracing equity and inclusion (Vilotti & Berson, 2019a; Vilotti & Berson, 2019b).
- They must learn how to collaboratively problem solve and address issues of injustice (Baytas & Schroeder, 2021).



Current Research & Best Practices: Active Citizenship

“Taking the time and energy to do deep inquiry with young learners fosters important pathways of learning and investigating that they will benefit from throughout their education and lives as citizens”
(Kenyon, 2020, p. 225).

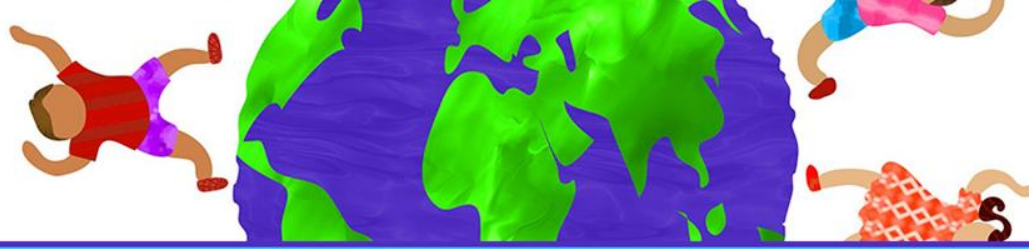


Current Research & Best Practices: Social Studies

- One of the “primary jobs of schools (is) to help society produce effective, contributing citizens” and “social studies is so needed in the elementary school” (Russell & Waters, 2022, p. 21).
- “Making the social studies more familiar to teachers is especially important at a time when there is such a strong focus on literacy and math” (Kemple, 2017, pp. 621).
- “One reason for low achievement scores stems from social studies education’s limited instructional time in elementary schools” (Hodges et al, 2019. p. 1)



Current Research & Best Practices: Children's Literature & Citizenship



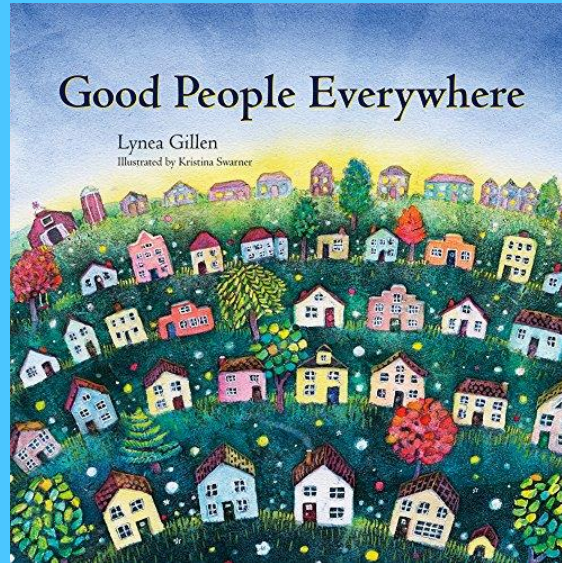
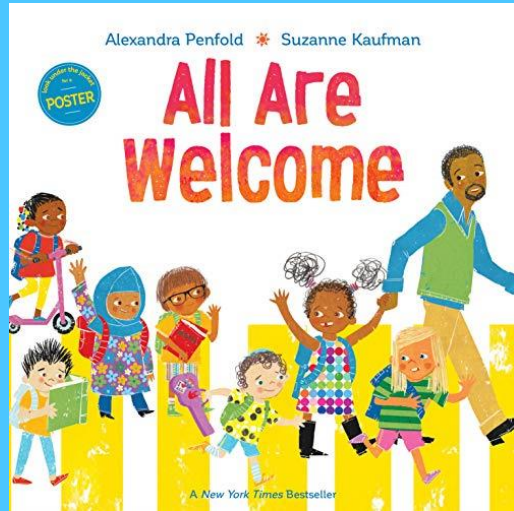
- Educators can help prepare young learners for active citizenship through integrating children's literature and social studies within the early childhood classroom (Baytas & Schroeder, 2021; National Council for the Social Studies, 2021).
- “Social Studies concepts can be learned through the interaction between what the students bring with them to the reading knowledge-wise and what they learn by reading and discussing the stories” (Almerico, 2013, p. 3).

Current Research & Best Practices: Children's Literature & Citizenship

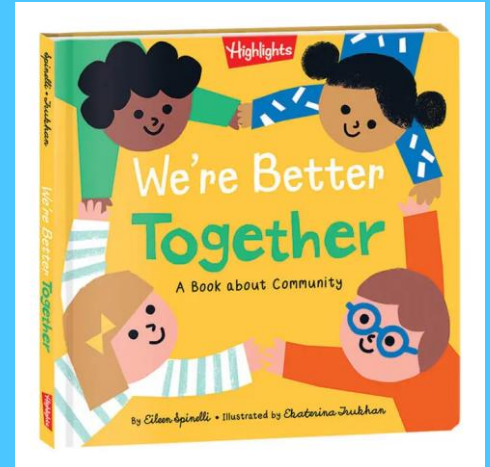
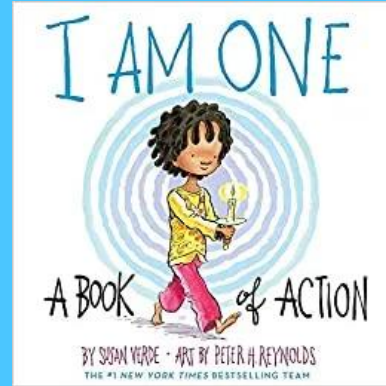
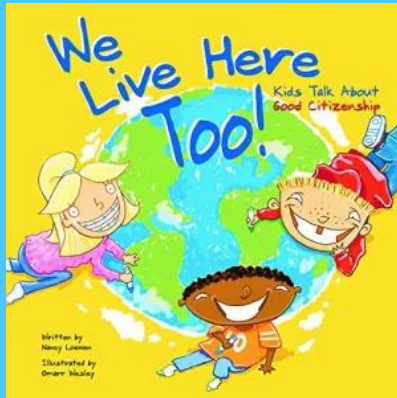
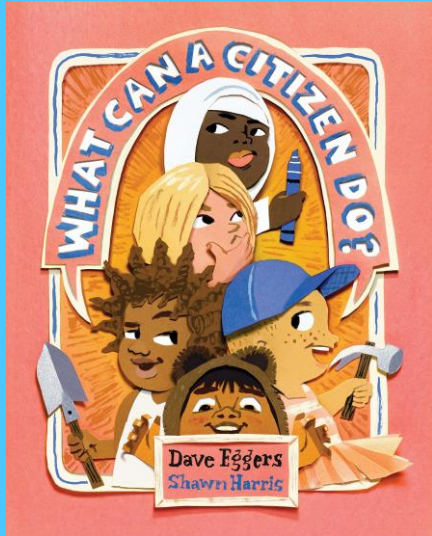
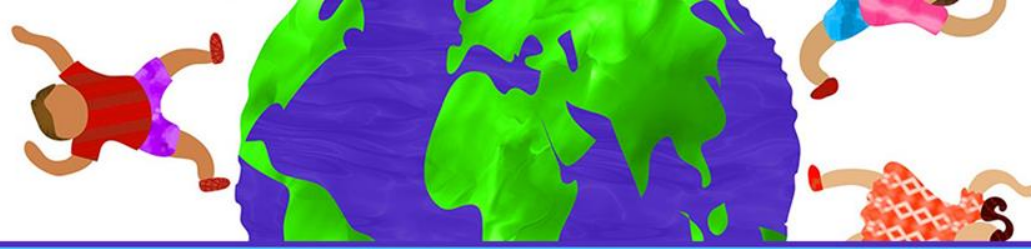
- “Quality children’s literature integrates naturally with the social studies and, when done well, allows the teacher to meet both language arts and social studies objectives” (Obenchain & Morris, 2011, p. 127).
- “Children’s literature has the potential to help children begin to develop an empathic understanding of other perspectives, as well as change their attitudes toward people who follow different ethical frameworks” (Torres, 2019, p. 166).



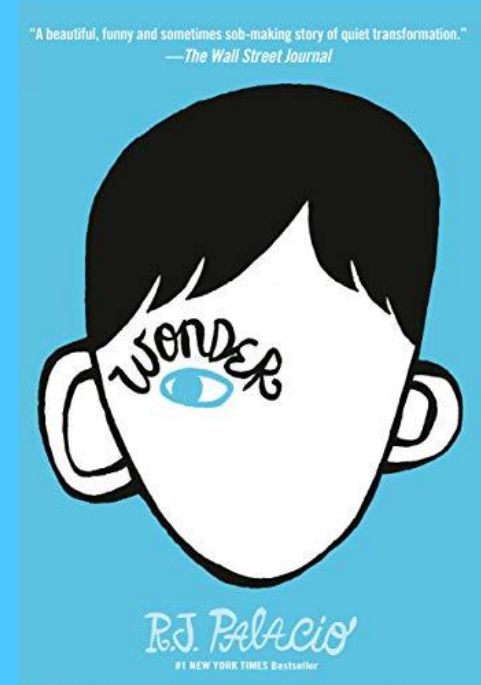
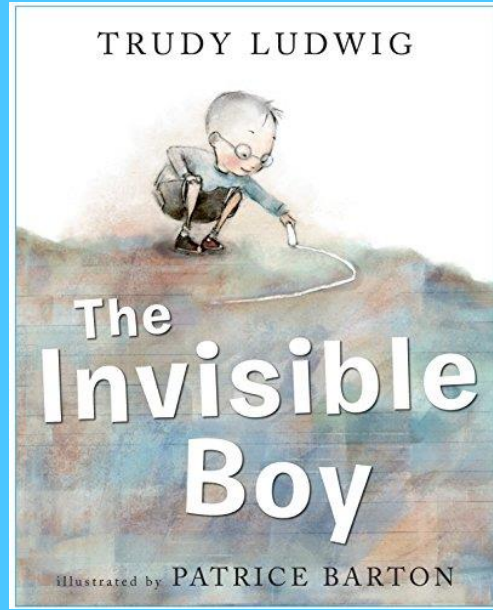
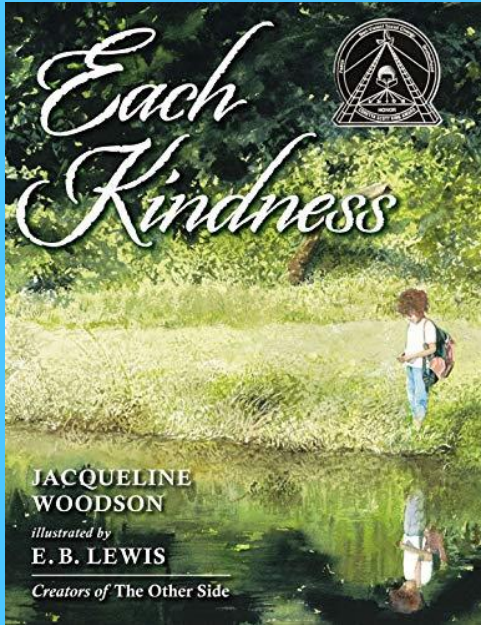
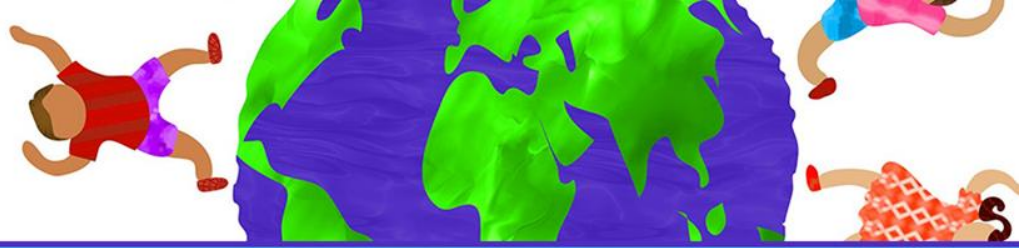
Children's Literature to Promote Citizenship



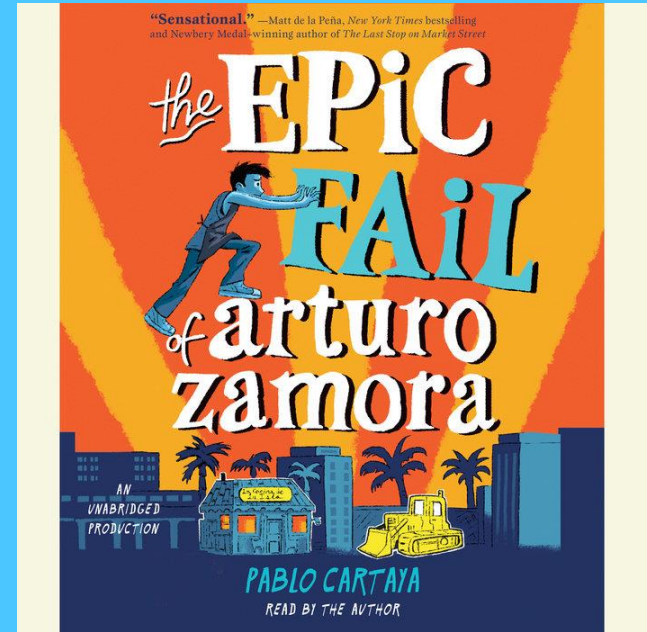
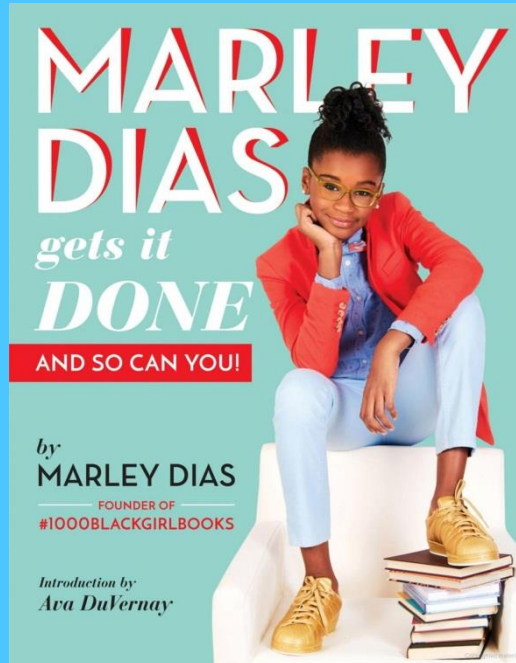
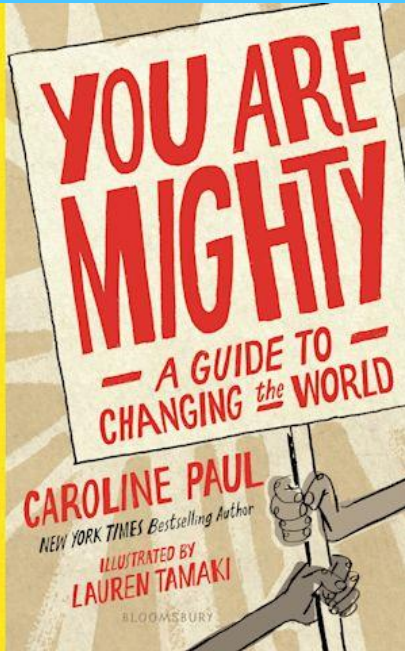
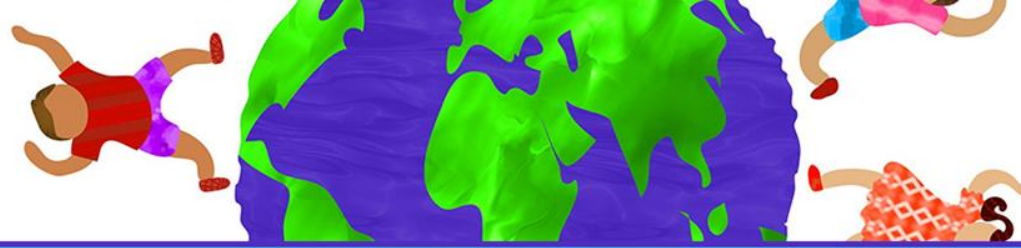
Children's Literature to Promote Citizenship



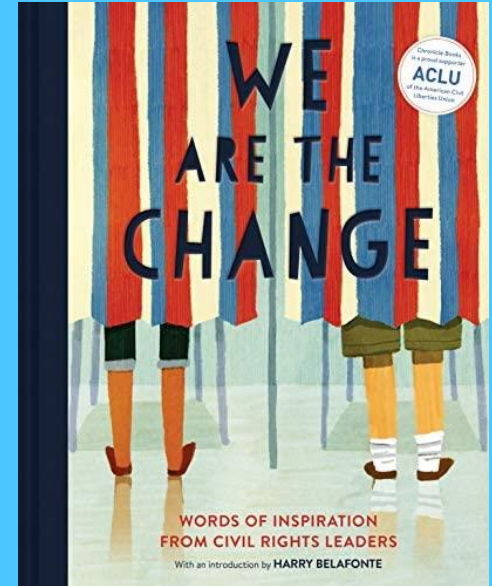
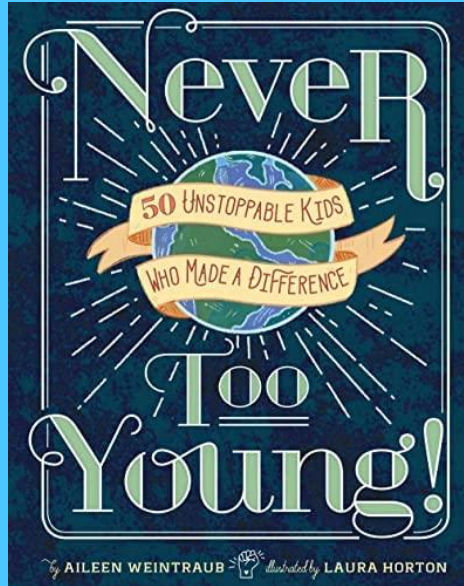
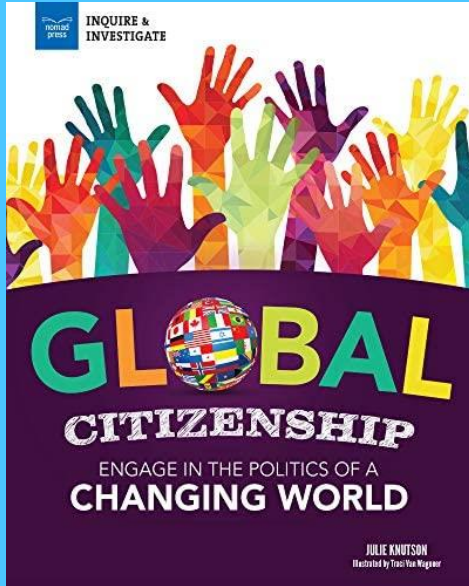
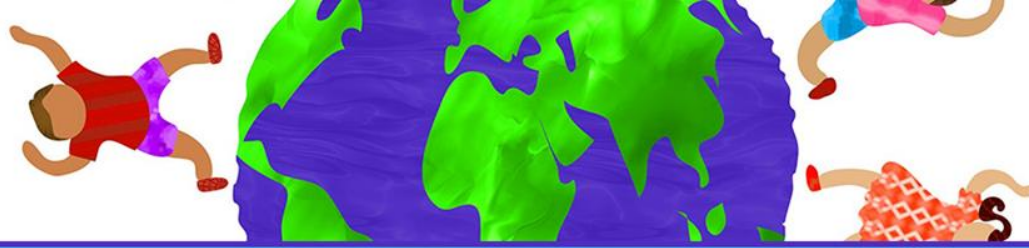
Children's Literature to Promote Citizenship



Children's Literature to Promote Citizenship



Children's Literature to Promote Citizenship



Current Research & Best Practices: Instructional Strategies

- Story Boards
- Semantic Map
- Text Frames
- Primary Source Analysis
- Story Quilt



Research Into Practice: Application

- Individually or with a partner, use the template & a piece of children's literature to outline a lesson focusing on active citizenship for young children.
- Share your ideas with the group.

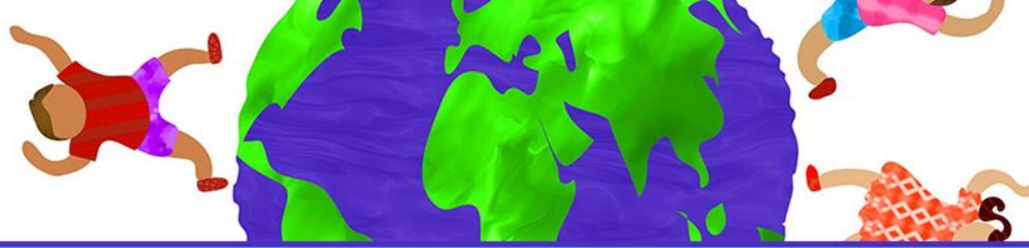


Case Study

- Kenyon, E. (2020). Critical inquiry into moments of historical change: Fostering broader understandings of citizenship. *The Social Studies*, 111(5), 219-225.



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Thank you!