



OurShelves Fact Sheet

**ALL kids and ALL families belong on OurShelves.
ALL kids and ALL families belong.**

Founded in 2018 by attorney, public policy advocate, and LGBTQ+ parent of two, Alli Harper, and backed by an [expert Curation Team](#), [OurShelves](#) offers high-quality children's book boxes that reflect the beautiful diversity of our children and families. Shipped quarterly, [OurShelves](#) book boxes connect busy families, teachers, and librarians to high-quality stories that feature racially and ethnically diverse, LGBTQ+, disabled, and feminist characters and families, among other traditionally under-represented children and families.

Did You Know? Racial, Gender and Other Cultural Biases Begin Early in Life

By the [ages of 2-3](#), children are internalizing [identity-based biases](#), both about themselves and others.

Who Our Children Meet in Their Books Matters

Beautiful, well-written books that are both engaging *and* reflect the wide diversity of today's children and families help cultivate values of equity, inclusion, social justice, joy, and fun at this critical age. **Yet, high-quality, diverse children's books can be [hard to find](#)—and there are still [not enough of them](#).**

OurShelves Founder Struggled to Find Diverse Books

Harper started OurShelves because of her and millions¹ of other families, teachers, and librarians' struggle to find high-quality diverse kids' books to affirm their values of diversity, inclusion, equity, social justice, joy and fun with the children in their lives.

OurShelves' Dual Mission

OurShelves has a dual mission to address two structural problems in the picture book industry: 1) Existing diverse books are often too hard to find; and 2) There are not enough diverse books, period:

- 1) To thoughtfully and rigorously curate high-quality diverse children's books and deliver them to the busy families, teachers, and librarians seeking them. (Learn more about our [curation](#).)
- 2) To advocate for the existing diverse books under attack as well as for the many diverse books still needed by proving their currently underestimated audience. (Learn more about our [advocacy](#).)

Unprecedented Number of Book Bans Target Diverse Children's Books

Purchasing or donating OurShelves book boxes is one way families, teachers, and librarians can take action against the [unprecedented rise in book bans](#) targeting [topics about and characters who are people of color or LGBTQ+](#). It is one way to get *more*, not *less*, diverse children's books into the world.

For more information, please contact Alli Harper (alli@OurShelves.com) or Autumn Hyatt (autumn@OurShelves.com). Please also visit www.OurShelves.com and [our Press Page](#).

¹ More than [half the babies](#) in the U.S. are babies of color. Up to [3.7 million children](#) have an LGBTQ+ parent, and [9.56 million LGBTQ+ Millennials](#) are [considering growing](#) their families. There are an estimated [12.58 million allied Millennial moms](#).