



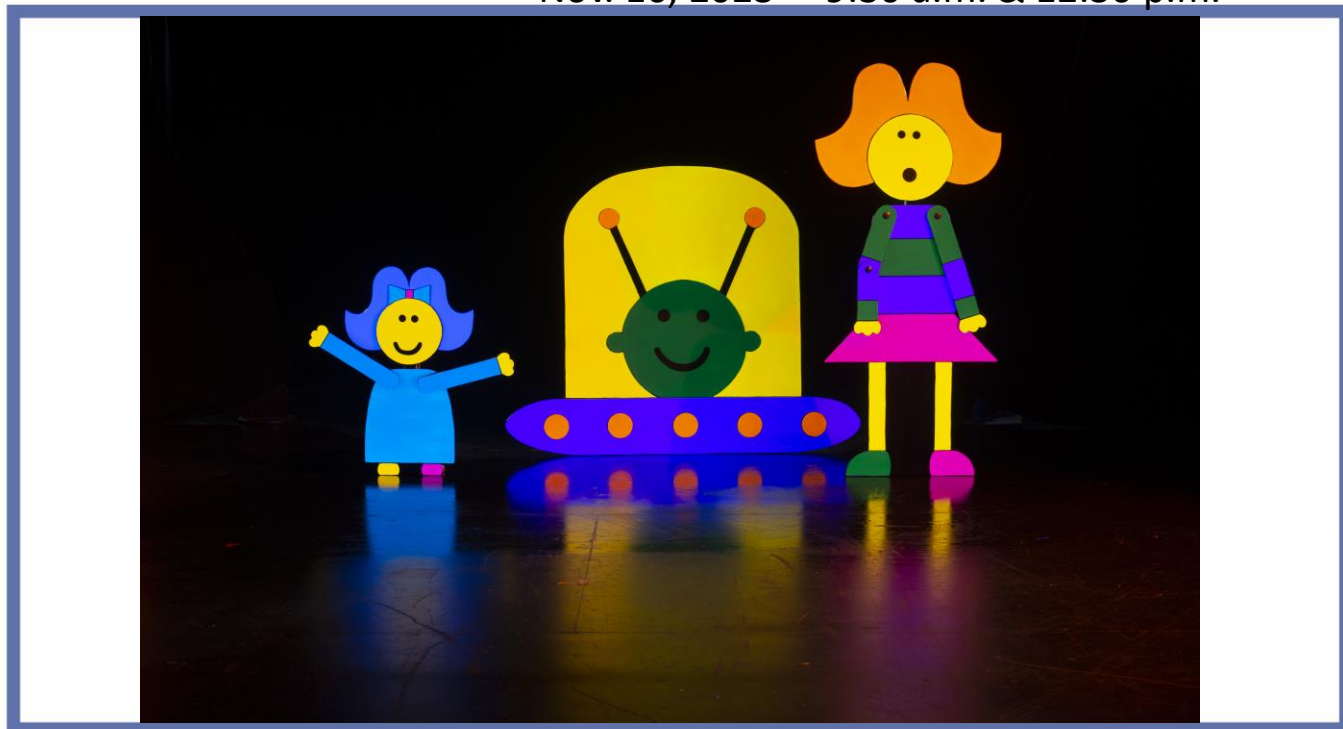
# 2023-24 Educator Resource Guide



Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's

## It's Okay to be Different – Stories by Todd Parr

Nov. 16, 2023 – 9:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.



With a myriad of offerings allowing your students to explore their identity and the identity of others, this season's Amcor Education Series has a show for everyone.

Thank you for allowing your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to partner with you to provide your students with engaging educational arts experiences.

For any questions, contact the education sales team at (920)730-3726 or [educationsales@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:educationsales@foxcitiespac.com).

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Education Series  
Title Partner:



Education Series  
Co-Partners:



# Thank you to our series partners for making this performance possible!

Education Series Title Partner



Education Series Title Co-Partners



Community Partners



## A note from our Series Title Partner – Amcor

At Amcor, we make the packaging you use every day on your food and beverages, healthcare products, personal care items and more! As a global leader in packaging design and material science, Amcor is proud to sponsor programs in STEM education and the arts in the communities where we have operations. We are thrilled to support the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and their efforts to provide enriching educational programming for young people in our area. Enjoy the show!

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# Welcome to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center!



When entering the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, remember to **show respect for others and your environment** so everyone can fully enjoy and participate in the experience.

- During the performance, the performers can see and hear you, so give them your full attention. Unlike a video, we can not rewind and replay a scene if we miss it.
- **Applause** is the best way to express how much you enjoyed the performance! For other Theater Etiquette tips, visit our website [here](#).
- **Important things to remember:**
  - Student backpacks, gum, drinks and food are not allowed in the theater.
  - Cell phones should be turned off and stowed.
  - Note that recording or taking photos in the theater is strictly prohibited; however, photos may be taken in the lobby.
  - It's a long way down – please do not drop items off balconies.

## Be prepared to arrive early

- You should plan on arriving to the Center 20 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time, parking and trips to the restroom.

Questions about your show reservation? Contact our education sales team at (920) 730-3726 or [educationsales@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:educationsales@foxcitiespac.com).

## Health and Safety

- The Center has created a touchless experience with the Evolv Express Security System. Upon entry, all bags entering the building are subject to search and prohibited items will not be allowed.
- Teachers and chaperones are discouraged from bringing bags, however, necessary backpacks or bags may be searched and tagged before being allowed in the theater.
- We ask that students leave their backpacks at school for Amcor Education Series performances. However, if students do bring them, they are subject to search and will need to be checked at the registration table in the lobby upon entry.

## Accessibility Services

- To best serve the needs of you and your students, please indicate if you have individuals who require special services or seating needs upon making your reservation.

Please see our complete list of policies at [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com).

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## About the show

Young students will be delighted by the playfulness of colorful puppets in Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's *It's Okay to Be Different*. This stage adaptation features three contemporary stories by New York Times bestselling author and illustrator Todd Parr ("It's Okay to Be Different," "The Earth Book" and "This is My Hair") and delivers important messages about self-confidence, caring for the earth, and acceptance, no matter what your hair looks like.

## Wisconsin Academic Standards

### READING K-5

- Overarching Statement: Read and comprehend a variety of complex literary and informational texts for many purposes (including enjoyment), including texts that reflect one's experiences of others. This includes independently and proficiently understanding grade-level text.
- Anchor Standard R2: Summarize key ideas and details in order to identify central ideas or themes of text and analyze their development.
- Anchor Standard R3: Analyze how and why individuals, events and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

### SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- Anchor Standard SL2: Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively and orally.
- Anchor Standard SL3: Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Standard SS.BH1: Wisconsin students will examine individual cognition, perception, behavior and identity (Psychology).
- Standard SS.BH2: Wisconsin students will investigate and interpret interactions between individuals and groups (Sociology).

# Lesson One

**Objective:** Students will create a craft mirror to recognize what is special about themselves in theme with Todd Parr's book "It's Okay to be Different."

**Materials:**

- Lesson borrowed from the Gaillard Center: <https://gaillardcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Its-Ok-to-Be-Different-Lesson-Plan-1.pdf>
- Construction paper
- Aluminum foil
- Glue sticks and tape
- Popsicle sticks
- Decorations: jewels, stickers, feathers, sequins, etc.
- "It's Okay to be Different" by Todd Parr



**Activity:**

- Read "It's Okay to be Different" by Todd Parr.
  - Ask the students what is something special about them.
    - Examples: They're a great friend, they are funny, they can do a cartwheel, etc.
- Explain to the students they're going to create "mirrors."
- Have the students trace the template for the mirror onto a piece of construction paper and cut it out. If it is more appropriate for your students, hand out the pre-cut pieces of the mirror.
- Hand out pieces of aluminum foil; have students glue the aluminum foil to the construction paper, creating a mirror.
- Have them write "I am Special" on the bottom of their mirror.
- Distribute the decorations and have the students share them and decorate their mirrors.
- Once their mirrors are decorated, glue or tape the popsicle stick to the back of the mirror.

## Did You Know?

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia has a unique show ahead of you! Utilizing puppets and black-light, the characters of Todd Parr's books come to life on stage. According to Jim Morrow, Managing Artistic Director of Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, "The lighting is ultraviolet, and the paint is fluorescent. This is typically called 'black-light theater'. When the ultraviolet light hits the fluorescent paint, it glows. What's interesting is that the ultraviolet light is actually blue light even though they call it black light. So, if you project UV light on white, it will show up light blue."

Source: <https://www.tpac.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Its-Okay-to-Be-Different-TPAC-Interviews-Mermaid-Theatre.pdf>

# Lesson Two

**Objective:** Students will show off their love of nature through an alternative painting method.

**Materials:**

- White pieces of construction paper
- Various colors of paints
- Paper plates to put the paints on
- Corks or another object that can be used as a round stamp
- “The Earth Book” by Todd Parr

**Activity:**

- Prepare: Put dollops of paint in various colors on paper plates for the students to put their corks into to paint. Chose nature colors like green, blue, brown, yellow, etc.
- Ask your students, what is their favorite season? Why do they like that season? Is it the colorful leaves in fall? The pretty snow during winter?
- Read “The Earth Book” by Todd Parr
  - What are some ways we can take care of the Earth? Examples: Recycle, ride our bikes, use reusable bags, etc.
- Explain to the students they get to paint their favorite part of nature, whether that be a flower, tree, an animal or even the planet Earth! Instead of brushes, they will be stamping paint with corks, making a pointillism (art using dots) painting.
- Make sure the artists sign their work when they finish!
- Have your students share their paintings with each other by having them walk around the classroom as if they are at an art gallery.

## In The Spotlight

Todd Parr is an author and illustrator of more than sixty children’s books. Fun fact, a lot of his early books didn’t have correct punctuation. This is because he started out as an artist, painting on large canvases and writing messages on the top. He has since realized he needs to set an example and makes sure everything is spelled right in his new books and proper grammar is used in his new books! Before Parr was an author, he was actually a flight attendant. The first book he published was in 1999, *The Okay Book*. (Source: <https://www.toddparr.com/landing-page/todd-parr-todd/#todd>)

# What's Next?

Don't let this experience end with the drop of the curtain. Keep the conversation going with your students and reflect on the performance that you just attended.



## Here are a few questions to get the conversation started!

What was your favorite part of the performance?

In "It's Okay to Be Different" you will explore unique things about yourself. What is your favorite thing about yourself?

This show used a lot of puppets to tell the story; which puppet was your favorite? Why?

What is something you learned about the Earth that you can do to help protect it?

What moment do you remember most from the performance? What was happening?

If you were going to tell a friend about the performance, how would you describe it in one sentence?

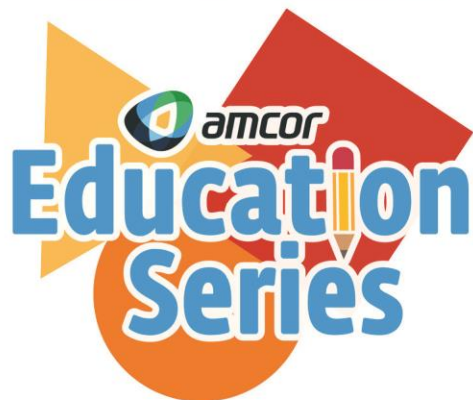
What surprised you about the performance? On the following page, write or draw something that surprised you or made you curious.



# My Reflections







# Student Showcase



What was a light bulb moment for your students?  
What was something new they learned?  
Was it anyone's first time to the Center?  
Share with us!

After your class attends the show we would appreciate photos, letters, posters and cards to share what your students are learning with our partners.

The Center's education programs are not possible without the support of our Annual Partners and grant funders. They enjoy learning about the schools and students that participate in the education programs so we would appreciate your help in telling the story.

Items may be sent via email to [sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com) or mailed/dropped off at:

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center  
Attn: Sammi Stelzl  
400 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911

Thank you for your help in sharing the great work you are doing in the classroom with our partners!



Please note items will not be returned and will be shared with our partners and/or used in Center marketing materials.

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# Resources

## Books

- “Be Who You Are!” by Todd Parr
- “Hair Love” by Matthew A. Cherry
- “I’m Like You, You’re Like Me” by Cindy Gainer
- “Love the World” by Todd Parr
- “The Colors of Us” by Karen Katz
- “The Okay Book” by Todd Parr
- “This is My Hair” by Todd Parr

## Online

- Todd Parr’s Website: <https://www.toddparr.com/>
- Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia’s Website: <https://www.mermaidtheatre.ca>
- How to Save the Planet: A Kids’ Guide:  
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/nature/how-to-save-the-planet/>
- 10 Simple Ways Kids Can Help the Earth: <https://community.thriveglobal.com/10-simple-ways-kids-can-help-the-earth/>
- Random Acts of Kindness: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/for-educators>
- Teaching Students about Disabilities: <https://www.scarymommy.com/disability-awareness-for-kids>

This resource guide was created for you by the programming team as part of The Boldt Company Beyond the Stage Education program. To download copies of this resource guide or to find additional resources for this performance or view past resource guides, please visit [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com) and click on the education tab.

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