Everyone has feelings! Sometimes big, sometimes, messy, but all emotions are important. This book shows photographs of kids feeling various emotions in different situations and how to navigate them. Teaching kids how to name their emotions can be a first step to them expressing themselves and communicating what they need.

This book is a great starting point in having a conversation about consent with children. With relevant and age appropriate examples, kids can learn about their body parts, bodily autonomy, different ways people say yes or no without saying "yes" or "no" explicitly, and healthy boundaries.

A rhyming board book about finding your voice, being creative, and being helpful? Yes, please! This colorful book celebrates talents in many forms, from being an artist to being kind to being a leader. A first introduction or a platform for a deeper conversation with an older preschooler.

Beautifully illustrated by Mike Curato, Samantha Berger’s picture book features an artist who is determined to create...even if all of her tools disappear! Without a pencil and paper, she might sculpt or carve or even plant flowers! A gorgeous rhyming story about the will to be imaginative and to create!

Gather, make - wait. That phrase repeats as children in this book make a cake, a garden, a song, and other beautiful things to share with the world and express themselves. And in the process, show their individuality.

This longer picture book is best suited for older preschoolers and also explores the many ways children can express themselves. Whether it’s baking or sporting a cool new haircut, the words and illustrations encourage all to find and share their voice!
MIKE CURATO
Sometimes an author or illustrator has so many great titles, we wish we could name them all! This month, we want to highlight the work of Mike Curato. Curato writes and illustrates his own picture books as well as illustrates other authors’ works. Curato’s art is colorful, inclusive, and perfect for preschoolers!

Early Literacy Tips
Have fun and express yourself! One way is through drawing. Try making a shared piece of artwork with your child. Maybe they draw a few lines and you add onto them. Or maybe they draw one animal, and then you draw another. No matter what you create, learning how to express yourself and work together--while having fun--is a wonderful thing to do.

Now let your shared drawing illustrate a shared story! Using words like "illustrator" and "author," you and your child can create a picture book together. Trade off lines in your story, or let your child fill in the blanks that you create. ("The polka-dotted bear went to the _____ and met a _____.") There's no right way to write a story!