Hi

On May 17, people from all over the world will celebrate International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTIQ) youth.

This is an issue that means a lot to me, and I think it’s crucial that our school is involved. We can send a message that bullying is never OK, and support our students, families and staff, who are LGBTIQ.

You may already have big plans for IDAHOBIT, and be well aware of the resources available, in which case, this will all be old news.  But in the knowledge that many teachers don’t know about the resources, please find below a list of possible ways schools can get involved, and a list of resources for starting these important conversations with primary school students.

**How schools can get involved** (From [www.idahobit.org.au](http://www.idahobit.org.au))

* Get everyone to wear rainbow for a gold coin and donate the proceeds to LGBTI youth.
* Take the IDAHOBIT pledge to stand against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in assembly.
* Raise the Rainbow Flag in the school yard.
* Inform the community about IDAHOBIT in the school newsletters, etc.
* Make a post about IDAHOBIT from our social media accounts.
* Teach LGBTI lessons or have a special event.

**Resources appropriate for primary school students.** (from Rainbows in Schools <https://www.rainbowsinschools.org/ifed-and-idahobit>.)

* **Prevention of bias-based bullying.**
* Rights, Responsibilities and Respectful Relationships suggests this [Welcoming Schools tip sheet](http://www.welcomingschools.org/pages/be-prepared-for-questions-and-put-downs-about-gender/) with a range of statements for children to use in the face of verbal gender-based violence.
* And Bully Stoppers (Dep of Ed, VIC) has some great advice about responding to [homophobic behaviours.](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/bullystoppers/Pages/advicehomophobia.aspx)
* Embracing family diversity
* **Poster:** The Rainbow Families Victoria poster ['Who's In Your Family'](http://www.rainbowfamilies.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/RFC-Who-is-in-your-family-2014.pdf.) is a great way to start conversations with children around family diversity, including: single parents, same-sex couples, step-families, extended families and foster families.
* **Books:** There are also lots of books about family diversity to support these conversations. Hares & Hyenas, a queer bookstore in Melbourne, has put together two lists of books, one of books appropriate for [primary to secondary aged kids,](https://www.rainbowsinschools.org/s/Book-List-Preschool-to-Secondary.pdf) and the other for [12-15 year olds.](https://www.rainbowsinschools.org/s/Book-List-ages-12-to-15-May-2018-PDF.pdf)
* **Movie and lesson plans:** The [Gayby Baby School Action Toolkit](http://thegaybyproject.com/schools/) is also a great way to discuss family diversity in primary schools. The [Gayby Baby movie](http://thegaybyproject.com/) can be watched on itunes, and there is a free primary resource that they recommend for years 5 and 6, and a free secondary resource, that you can download from their [website.](http://thegaybyproject.com/schools/)
* **Gender Stereotypes and gender diversity**
* [The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships](http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/ResourcePackage/ByPin?pin=2JZX4R) learning materials cover gender and identity in Topic 7 and contain 3-4 activity ideas for each age level.
* Welcoming Schools, a program of the Human Rights Campaign in the US, suggests the following [Lesson Plans to Help Students Understand Gender and to Support Transgender and Non-Binary Children](http://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/lesson-plans/transgender-youth/transgender-with-books/).
* For books and resources on embracing and supporting trans and gender diverse young people, [The Rainbow Owl](http://www.the-rainbow-owl.com/) has suggestions for children and young people, for parents and families, and for educators and schools.

Last year, schools all over Australia got involved and celebrities and corporations participated too, and each year the day only gets bigger. Imagine being an LGBTIQ student here and seeing that we are actively supporting them! How much of a difference would that make in their life? You can look at more ideas for the day by going to www.idahobit.org.au.

Regards,