



Orange Shirt Day Resources for Children and Youth

Living Skies Region First Third Ministry

As we plan for Orange Shirt Day (September 30), it's important to share age-appropriate stories with the young people in our communities of faith. **It's never too early to start sharing the message "Every Child Matters."**

Prioritize Indigenous voices and creators, and if you are purchasing Orange Shirts or other materials make sure the funds go to organizations that directly support Residential School Survivors.

Consider the age of the kids you are working with and be prepared for questions. Review the books and videos ahead of time so you know what is coming. If your group includes school-age children, it is likely that they will have encountered a lesson about Orange Shirt Day at school so you may start with a conversation – they will likely be able to teach the congregation something!

For younger children, this story can feel distressing especially early in the school year when they are just getting used to the idea of being away from their caregivers. This story is important to share, however. Try focusing on how it's important to celebrate uniqueness, or talk about how "when we know better we do better."

Most importantly, **connect with any local groups that are honouring Orange Shirt Day** and show your support with your presence. Invite your faith community to join you!

EVERY
CHILD
MATTERS



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Books published about Phyllis's story for different ages:

1. [Today is Orange Shirt Day](#) – an adaptation for our youngest friends
2. [With Our Orange Hearts](#) – an adaptation for ages 3-5
3. [Phyllis's Orange Shirt](#) – an adaptation for ages 4-6
4. [The Orange Shirt Story](#) – appropriate for older kids, age 9-12

Other Children's Literature to Honour Indigenous Culture:

1. [Be Kind](#) - by Saskatchewan author Elizabeth Merasty
2. [I Am Not a Number](#) by Jenny Kay Dupuis, Kathy Kacer, Gillian Newland
3. [When We Were Alone](#) by David A. Robertson
4. [Walking Together](#) by Elder Dr. Albert D Marshall, Louise Zimanyi
5. [Kookum's Red Shoes](#) by Peter Eyvindson
6. [The Elders are Watching](#) by Roy Henry Vickers

Links and Resources:

[The Orange Shirt Day website](#) has many videos, ideas for simple but meaningful activities, and lots of printables.

[The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#) has many suggestions for activities and resources organized by age group

[A Prayer as We Wear Orange](#) written by Sara Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator for the United Church of Canada

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