The purpose of the study
In a multicultural education environment, teachers' recognitions and attitudes can be said to be the core elements of multicultural education. Since the influence of early childhood teachers on young children is very large (See, 2009), it is important to have an appropriate awareness and perspective on multicultural education as a teacher from the pre-service teacher period.

In multicultural education, literary works can be said to be an effective method that can comprehensively understand ethnic minorities, diverse cultures, lifestyles, and viewpoints and bring about positive attitude change (Banks, 2008; Jung & Prak, 2009).

Through this study, it is intended to give implications for early childhood teacher education by examining the multicultural recognition that early childhood teachers form through picture books.

Research Question: How is the early childhood teacher's reflection through multicultural picture books?

Research method
1) participants
In this study, 7 early childhood teachers participated in the picture book reading activity from the 3rd week of October to the 2nd week of December 2021 in order to explore the reflection process of early childhood teachers through multicultural picture books. According to the criteria for selecting multicultural picture books suggested by MaGuire-Raskin (1996) and Finazzo (1997), early childhood teachers selected 7 picture books that reflect the reality of multicultural families in Korea and contain various anti-bias elements, and all teachers selected picture books. All of them had a reading experience. A list of picture books read by early childhood teachers

2) Multicultural Picture Books
picture books read by early childhood teachers in this study were as follows: Walking Together (Written by Seo-Jeong Kim, Illustration by Sang-Ok Han, Woongjin Publishing Company (2010)), Gift from Guatemala (Written by Min-Jin Kim, painting by Ha-Neul Seo, Kids M(2014)), The Day We Don't Know (Written by Mi-Jin Cheon, Illustration by Sang-Hyun Lee, Illustrated by Kids M(2014)), My Aunt's Wedding (Written by Seonkyung Lee/Illustration(2009)), Grace is Amazing (Written by Mephihoffman, Illustrated by Caroline Vinci, Published by Construction Company(2017)), Uncle Chanda (Written by Jaec Yoon, illustrated by Seungmin Oh, Published by Lambo(2019)), Ye-seul's mother, Gu Tien (Written by Hee-Ok Lim, illustrated by Choong-Sik Kim. Korea Publishing House(2012)).

3. Results
1) Engraving the cultural perspective of picture books
Early childhood teachers showed various recognitions of the children's lives in multicultural picture books. In other words, the teacher's recognitions that the picture book was appropriate because it reflected the objective view of culture appeared. On the other hand, there was also a perception that sympathy and prejudice can be formed against certain countries, races, and classes.
In the picture book, Mrs. Kim showed the perception that the main character and the children of the same age objectively introduce various aspects of life of the children of the same age as the children of the same age. She said that she was particularly impressed with her experience of the protagonist living in Korea making and wearing shoes made of plastic bottles by a Congolese child as an attempt to understand other cultures. Miss Han said that reading the picture books made her feel that there are many children living with hunger and economic hardship around the world and that she knows what to do for them.

On the other hand, Miss. Park pointed out that showing the lives of poor children in each country in contrast to the main character in the picture book can give prejudice to children. In particular, she said, in the pictures in her picture books, children living in poverty and economic hardship are dark-skinned and out of school, which can give stereotypes or prejudices about certain countries, races and classes. In a similar vein, Mrs. Min showed the perception that infants who see dark skin, sick appearance, hunger, and refugee children shown in public service advertisements are easy to form prejudice against black people.

2) Realizing own cultural point of view

Early childhood teachers realized their own cultural point of view through reading picture books. Miss Yoon recognized that she usually respects and views multiple cultures without prejudice, but she also found that she had superiority and disregard for multicultural families. Miss. Song admits that she has prejudices about her skin color and her appearance. She would be friendly and tolerant of people with white skin rather than black. She said that this prejudice may have all humans, just as children like and follow a pretty teacher. Nevertheless, Miss. Song said that she tries hard not to cause inconvenience or disadvantage to children due to her prejudice. Miss. Jung recalled her experience of making fun of a multicultural family friend during her school days, and she regretted and apologized for her inadvertent behavior at that time.

4. suggestion

In this study, the results of early childhood teachers showing various perspectives on cultural approaches through multicultural picture books are meaningful. The teacher's insight to guard against relative and cultural superiority by preparing children from poverty and hunger with ordinary children has implications for multicultural education. In addition, the fact that teachers themselves discover the elements of prejudice that they have formed is also a meaningful implication of multicultural education through picture books.

5. References


