How to Talk to Your Child/Children About Race and Racism

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Resource List
Young children notice and think about race. Adults often worry that talking about race will encourage racial bias in children, but the opposite is true. Silence about race reinforces racism by letting children draw their own conclusions based on what they see. Teachers and families can play a powerful role in helping children of all ages develop positive attitudes about race and diversity and skills to promote a more just future—but only if we talk about it!

Do some learning of your own to get ready for conversations with children. Here are some good places to seek information and training:

- Teaching Tolerance — tolerance.org
- Raising Race Conscious Children — raceconscious.org
- Embrace Race — embracerace.org
- Teaching for Change — teachingforchange.org
- AORTA Cooperative — aorta.coop
- Fortify Community Health (CA) — fortifycommunityhealth@gmail.com
- Delaware Valley Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (PA) — dvaeyc.org

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The Children's Community School
1212 South 47th Street, Philadelphia PA 19143
childrenscommunityschool.org
Children’s Book Lists

• Anti-Racist Books for All – CBC Diversity Committee
• These Books Can Help You Explain Racism and Protest to Your Kids – New York Times
• 10 Children’s Book About Racism and Activism to Help Parents Educate Their Kids – Huffington Post
• An Anti-Racist Children’s and YA Reading List – Publisher’s Weekly
• People Are Marching Against Racism. They’re Also Reading About It – New York Times
• An Anti-Racist Graphic Novel Reading List – Publisher’s Weekly
• Where Are Our Black Boys on Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy Novel Covers? – Tor.com
• A frank conversation about YA literature, police brutality, and the nuances of Black storytelling – Entertainment Weekly
• A Teacher Tweeted Her Favorite Children’s Books On Racism And It Went Viral – BuzzFeed
• 18 YA Books to Diversify Your Kids’ Bookshelves and Teach Them to Become Better Allies – PopSugar
• Sesame Street Wants to Help Start Conversations About Racism With Your Kids – Yahoo News
Books Exploring Skin Tone and Racial Features

1. *Don't Touch My Hair!* by Sharron Miller
2. *Daddy Why Am I Brown?* by Bedford Palmer II, Ph.D.
3. *Hair Like Mine* by Latashia M. Perry
4. *The Skin I'm In* by Pat Thomas
5. *Skin We Are In* by Sindiwe Magona and Nina G. Jablonski
Resources:

21 Anti-Racism Videos To Share With Kids

https://www.weareteachers.com/anti-racism-videos/
1st and 2nd Grade Literature

Books used for first and second graders:

- *My Name is Sangoel* by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed, illus. by Catherine Stock
- *All the Colors We Are/Todos los colores de nuestra piel: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color/La historia de por qué tenemos diferentes colores de piel* by Katie Kissinger
- *These Hands* by Margaret H. Mason, illus. by Floyd Cooper
- *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story* by Ruby Bridges
- *The Streets are Free* by Kurusa, illus. by Monika Doppert
Microaggressions

• The everyday, subtle, intentional—and oftentimes unintentional—interactions or behaviors that communicate some sort of bias toward historically marginalized groups.
Countering Microaggressions - Children’s Literature

• One excellent starting point is children’s literature:
  • Michael Genhart’s *Ouch! Moments: When Words Are Used in Hurtful Ways*, illustrated by Viviana Garofoli, addresses microaggressions explicitly.
  • Other books tell the story of what it means to be the target of them:
    • Having people treat you as a curiosity—*Don’t Touch My Hair*, by Sharee Miller
    • Being misgendered—*10,000 Dresses* by Marcus Ewert, illustrated by Rex Ray
    • Having your name mocked and mangled—*The Name Jar*, by Yangsook Choi
**4th – 6th Grade Literature**

**A Good Kind of Trouble** by Lisa Moore Ramée

This novel follows a young Black girl as she learns to navigate the world around her, investigating issues of race, racism, police brutality and racial injustice. It delves into the Black Lives Matter movement and the importance of protest as its twelve-year-old protagonist grows up and learns to find her voice.
Children’s Literature

- https://phase.center/childrens-books-on-race-an-age-by-age-guide/
- https://www.embracerace.org/resources/20-picture-books-for-2020
Literature in the Orchard Park High School Curriculum

- The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
- The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon
- Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
Orchard Park High School
Book Study Titles

There
by Tommy Orange

The Water Dancer
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Nickel Boys
by Colson Whitehead
Teens Taking Action

- Priya Vulchi & Winona Guo wrote *The Classroom Index*

- Prisha Prabhu created the Re Think Online Hate App)

- Keedron Bryant recorded “I Just Want to Live”

[YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/ULuSLBX74Ac](https://youtu.be/ULuSLBX74Ac)
RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- **White Fragility**: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism
  - Robin DiAngelo, Foreword by Michael Eric Dyson

- **How to be an Antiracist**: A New Manual for Leading Antiracist Schools and Communities
  - Ibram X. Kendi

- **This Book Is Not an Anti-Racist**: Racial Justice and Education Through the Eyes of Students

- **How to Be Less Stupid About Race**: On Anti-Racism and Black Lives
  - Crystal M. Fleming

- **Antiracist Baby**: Not All White People Are Racist
  - Ibram X. Kendi, Illustrations by Ashley Lukashevsky

- **Raising White Kids**: Helping Our Children Achieve Racial Equity
  - Jennifer Harvey

- **So You Want to Talk About Race**: A Black Woman’s Guide to White Supremacy & Black Liberation
  - Ijeoma Oluo

- **Teaching Young Children to Resist Bias**: What Parents Can Do
  - Louise Germain-Scott, M.A., Emma Tant, and Carl Brandon-Dunlop
Where do we go from here?

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<td>Recognize race</td>
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<td>Engage in discussions about race</td>
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<td><strong>S</strong></td>
<td>Select developmentally appropriate language &amp; materials</td>
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<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td>Embrace imperfection; expect to make mistakes</td>
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<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td>Nurture racial literacy; focus on policies</td>
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<td>Trust that we will overcome racism</td>
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