



Talking About Race

## ABOUT THIS KIT

Parents and caregivers can use Children's Literature to have conversations with children about race to grow racial equity.



## START EARLY

By 6 months of age, babies are noticing racial differences; by age 4, children have begun to show signs of racial bias.



## ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO TALK ABOUT RACE

Encourage your child to ask questions, share observations and experiences, and be respectfully curious about race.



## FACE YOUR OWN BIAS

Let your child see you acknowledge and face your own biases. Share with your child things you do to confront and overcome bias.



## RACIAL CULTURAL LITERACY

Develop racial cultural literacy by learning about and respecting others. Study and talk about the histories and experiences of groups including Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous, and others.

**Reading Tips:** Examples of discussion questions to be used with this kit and when reading other books with young children.

- Point out cultural differences when reading picture books. When exploring those differences, reinforce that “different” and “weird” are not the same thing.

*Question: “Why is her hair weird?”*

*Response: “Her hair type is different. Some people have straight, curly, or wavy hair.” “I think it is great we are all different.”*

- Share with your child your feelings about race when reading picture books.

*“It makes me sad that laws allowed certain groups of people like African-Americans to be treated differently.”*

- While reading to your child, it is okay to point out racial differences.

*“Is that skin darker or lighter than your own?”*

*“Did you know that we can be born with different skin colors? Well, this skin tone is called \_\_\_\_\_.”*

- Use “fair/unfair” when talking about racial stereotypes in picture books.

*Wow, this picture book only included white male inventors. That’s unfair. Did you know that \_\_\_\_\_ created things, too? Let’s read about some famous \_\_\_\_\_ inventors.*

- Respect your child’s curiosity of the world around them by answering their hard and sometimes embarrassing observations.

*“Let me think about that for awhile,” or try “That is a good question--- and I do not know” are great starting responses.*

**Source: “Talking about Race in Storytimes” toolkit created by Jessica Anne Bratt, Youth Services Manager in Grand Rapids, Wisconsin.**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION & RESOURCES, VISIT:

[www.marinlibrary.org/conscious-kids](http://www.marinlibrary.org/conscious-kids)