

BLACK LIVES MATTER GUIDING PRINCIPLES

“KID-FRIENDLY” VERSIONS OF THE 13 PRINCIPLES – by Laleña Garcia

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	We know that if you hurt somebody, you have to help them feel better; you can't just say, "Sorry," and walk away. We also know that it's important for kids to be able to make a better choice another time, and it's grownups' job to help them make better choices and to give them chances to do that.
EMPATHY	It's so important to think about how other people feel, because different people have different feelings. Sometimes it helps to think about how you would feel if the same thing that happened to your friend happened to you.
LOVING ENGAGEMENT	It's so important to make sure that we are always trying to be fair and peaceful, and to engage with other people (treat other people) with love. We have to keep practicing this so that we can get better and better at it.
DIVERSITY	Different people do different things and have different feelings. It's so important that we have lots of different kinds of people in our community and that everyone feels safe.
GLOBALISM	Globalism means that we are thinking about all the different people all over the world, and thinking about the ways to keep things fair everywhere.
TRANSGENDER AFFIRMING	Everybody has the right to choose their own gender by listening to their own heart and mind. Everyone gets to choose if they are a girl or a boy or both or neither or something else, and no one else gets to choose for them.
QUEER AFFIRMING	Everybody has the right to choose who they love and the kind of family they want by listening to their own heart and mind.
COLLECTIVE VALUE	Everybody is important, and has the right to be safe and happy.
INTERGENERATIONAL	It's important that we have spaces where people of different ages can come together and learn from each other. Another way to say that is intergenerational.
BLACK FAMILIES	There are lots of different kinds of families; what makes a family is that it's people who take care of each other. It's important to make sure that all families feel welcome.
BLACK VILLAGES	There are lots of different kinds of families; what makes a family is that it's people who take care of each other; those people might be related, or maybe they choose to be family together and to take care of each other. Sometimes, when it's lots of families together, it can be called a village.
BLACK WOMEN	There are some people who think that women are less important than men. We know that all people are important and have the right to be safe and talk about their feelings.
UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACK	The affirmation that Black Lives Matter and that our love, and desire for justice and freedom are prerequisites for wanting that for others. These principles are the blueprint for healing and do not include nor do they support ignoring or sanitizing the ugliness and discomfort that comes with dealing with race and anti-race issues. For kids: “There are lots of different kinds of people and one way that we're different is the color of our skin. It's important to make sure that all people are treated fairly, and that's why we, and lots of other people all over the country and the world are part of the Black Lives Matter movement.”