

Antiracist Parenting Resources

Black lives matter.

By the time kids get to kindergarten, they already show many of the same racial attitudes that adults in our culture hold - this means it is our responsibility to support our infants and toddlers in antiracist efforts (Bronson & Merryman, 2009).

This page will share research to learn, reflections to sit with and consider your part in systemic racism, and action step to engage families in antiracist efforts with their littlest learners. Learn. Reflect. Act.

Lawrence Parents as Teachers welcomes questions and conversation if you would like to talk further about what you can do to engage in antiracist parenting. You can reach the Lawrence PAT team at lp spat@usd497.org

[Lawrence Parents as Teachers Antiracist Parenting](#)

This document is a compilation of social media posts by Lawrence Parents as Teachers to engage families in conversation about how to become antiracist. Each page has citations to articles and websites for further information and resources to Learn, Reflect, and Act.

[Superintendent's Equity Message to our School Community](#)

This urgent work starts with each of us. Lawrence can lead the way if each of us commits to examine personal bias, speak out against social injustices, and stand up for and learn from others who do not look like us. We must continue to eliminate behaviors, policies, practices, and procedures that perpetuate systemic racism.

Black Lives Matter. Our Black scholars, school families, and staff matter. We see you, hear you, and support you. We will continue to champion all students as one team.

The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health

The American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to addressing the factors that affect child and adolescent health with a focus on issues that may leave some children more vulnerable than others. Racism is a social determinant of health that has a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescents, emerging adults, and their families. Although progress has been made toward racial equality and equity, the evidence to support the continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear. The objective of this policy statement is to provide an evidence-based document focused on the role of racism in child and adolescent development and health outcomes. By acknowledging the role of racism in child and adolescent health, pediatricians and other pediatric health professionals will be able to proactively engage in strategies to optimize clinical care, workforce development, professional education, systems engagement, and research in a manner designed to reduce the health effects of structural, personally mediated, and internalized racism and improve the health and well-being of all children, adolescents, emerging adults, and their families.

They're not too young to talk about race!



At birth, babies look equally at faces of all races. At 3 months, babies look more at faces that match the race of their caregivers.

Children as young as two years use race to reason about people's behaviors.

By 30 months, most children use race to choose playmates.

Expressions of racial prejudice often peak at ages 4 and 5.

By five, Black and Latinx children in research settings show no preference toward their own groups compared to Whites; White children at this age remain strongly biased in favor of

By kindergarten, children show many of the same racial attitudes that adults in our culture hold—they have already learned to associate some groups with higher status than

Explicit conversations with 5–7 year olds about interracial friendship can dramatically improve their racial attitudes in as little as a single week.

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 —
 - Raising Race Conscious Children —
 - Embrace Race —
 - Teaching for Change —
 - AORTA Cooperative —
 - Fortify Community Health (CA) —
 - Delaware Valley Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (PA) —

If you are having trouble viewing the document, you may [download the document](#).

Websites and Resources

Boston University Center for Antiracist Research

The mission of the BU Center for Antiracist Research is to convene varied researchers and practitioners to figure out novel and practical ways to understand, explain, and solve seemingly intractable problems of racial inequity and injustice. We foster exhaustive racial research, research-based policy innovation, data-driven educational and advocacy campaigns, and narrative-change initiatives. We are working toward building an antiracist society that ensures equity and justice for all.

Courageous Conversations

Pacific Educational Group is committed to achieving racial equity in the U.S. and beyond. We engage in sustained partnerships featuring training, coaching and consulting with organizations to transform beliefs, behaviors, and results so people of all races can achieve at their highest levels and live their most empowered and powerful lives.

Embrace Race

EmbraceRace was founded in early 2016 by two parents (one Black, the other multiracial Black/White) who set out to create the community and gather the resources they needed (need!) to meet the challenges they face raising children in a world where race matters. Since that time, EmbraceRace has grown into a multiracial community of parents, teachers, experts, and other caring adults who support each other to meet the challenges that race poses to our children, families, and communities.

Institute for Racial Equity and Excellence

The mission of the Institute for Racial Equity & Excellence is to create inclusive environments and to ensure equity and social justice at all levels of society. We aim to change the hearts and practices of the workforce to enhance child, family, and community outcomes, especially of those working with communities of color and other marginalized groups.

Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center

The Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP) provides technical assistance and training, upon request, in the areas of race, sex, national origin, and religion to public school districts and other responsible governmental agencies to promote equitable educational opportunities and work in the areas of civil rights, equity, and school reform.

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Videos

Abolitionist Teaching and the Future of Our Schools

A conversation with Bettina Love, Gholdy Muhammad, Dena Simmons and Brian Jones about abolitionist teaching and antiracist education. What would freedom look like in our schools? How can abolitionist educators make the most of this moment to fight for humane, liberatory, anti-racist schooling for black youth and for all youth? The coronavirus pandemic has transformed the US education system overnight. The antiracist rebellion in the streets has shown a light on the deep racial inequality in America. Educators and activists who have nurtured radical dreams for public schools now face an unprecedented moment of change, and the challenge of trying to teach and organize online in the midst of unfolding crises. Scholar and author Bettina Love's concept of abolitionist teaching is about adopting the radical stance of the movement that ultimately overthrew slavery, but persisted and insisted on freedom long before that victory.

BLACK / How You See Me by Soul Pancake

"With everything happening in America, and even around the world, with all the tragedies, I have taken in my blackness even more. I feel very proud to be black." Tell us, how does the world see YOU? Do you feel defined by your skin color, gender, or maybe even your religion?

How to Practice Understanding / How You See Me by Soul Pancake

We invited the participants of How You See Me to have a conversation about their experience and the themes brought up in the comments. In this episode they discuss the practice and importance of understanding. What are the different ways you can practice understanding for people of a different race, religion, gender, or background than you?

How to Talk to Kids about Race by Jemar Tisby from The Atlantic

“The worst conversation adults can have with kids about race is no conversation at all,” says author Jemar Tisby. “Talking to kids about race needs to happen early, often, and honestly.” In a new episode of Home School, The Atlantic’s animated series about parenting, Tisby offers advice on how to have a conversation with children about race, from experiential learning to watching classic animated films.

Is my skin brown because I drank chocolate milk? by Beverly Daniel Tatum

When her 3-year-old son told her that a classmate told him that his skin was brown because he drank chocolate milk, Dr. Tatum, former president of Spelman College and a visiting scholar at Stanford’s Haas Center for Public Service, was surprised. As a clinical psychologist, she knew that preschool children often have questions about racial difference, but she had not anticipated such a question. But through conversations with her preschool son, followed by talking to teachers, colleagues and parents, she came to realize it is the things we don’t say and the matters we don’t discuss with our children that find their way into racist dialogue and thinking.’

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