

ACTIVELY ANTI-RACIST  
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# Being Vocal About Anti-Racism

Talking honestly, openly, and  
frequently with children about  
race and racism

# o Talk

# About It

Try not to be embarrassed by children when they bring up potentially uncomfortable comments or questions. They are learning to navigate a complex world, just like you.

## WHAT TO TALK ABOUT:

- Injustices faced by Black people and other oppressed groups
- The efforts of people in history who have pushed against these injustices
- How people use many features of themselves to construct their identity
- How people are similar and different
- The anti-racist behavior of others

Talking about these issues in a developmentally appropriate way can feel overwhelming for adults.

Try using anti-racist children's books and other forms of anti-racist media to guide conversations.

"Today we are going to read a book about Frederick Douglass and how he helped fight inequality."



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# Think Critically

Just as adults are encouraged to think critically about their biases and actions, children need to be encouraged to do the same.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S CRITICAL THINKING:

**What makes something fair or unfair?**

**How does that behavior make that person feel?**

**What can you do when you see someone engaging in racist behavior?**



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When you are talking with your child about anti-racism, it is important to give them the tools they need to do their part in cultivating an anti-racist society.

Teach children to talk positively about their identity and what makes them who they are.

**"When you see someone being treated unfairly, you can tell the person that they are being unfair and work together to make the situation more fair for everyone."**

Support children in taking action against unfair behaviors and stereotypes.

# Empowering Your Child

**"You have dark curly hair just like me, but your skin is a little more brown. We are the same in some ways and different in others, but we are who we are and that is something special."**

# Additional Resources

To learn more:



Tatum, B. D. (1997). *Why are all the black kids sitting together in the cafeteria? And other conversations about race*. New York, NY: Basic Books.



Derman-Sparks, L., & Edwards, J. O. (2015, July 8). Teaching young children about race: A guide for parents and teachers. Teaching for Change. <https://www.teachingforchange.org/teaching-about-race>.