

ACTIVELY ANTI-RACIST

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EQUITY VS EQUALITY

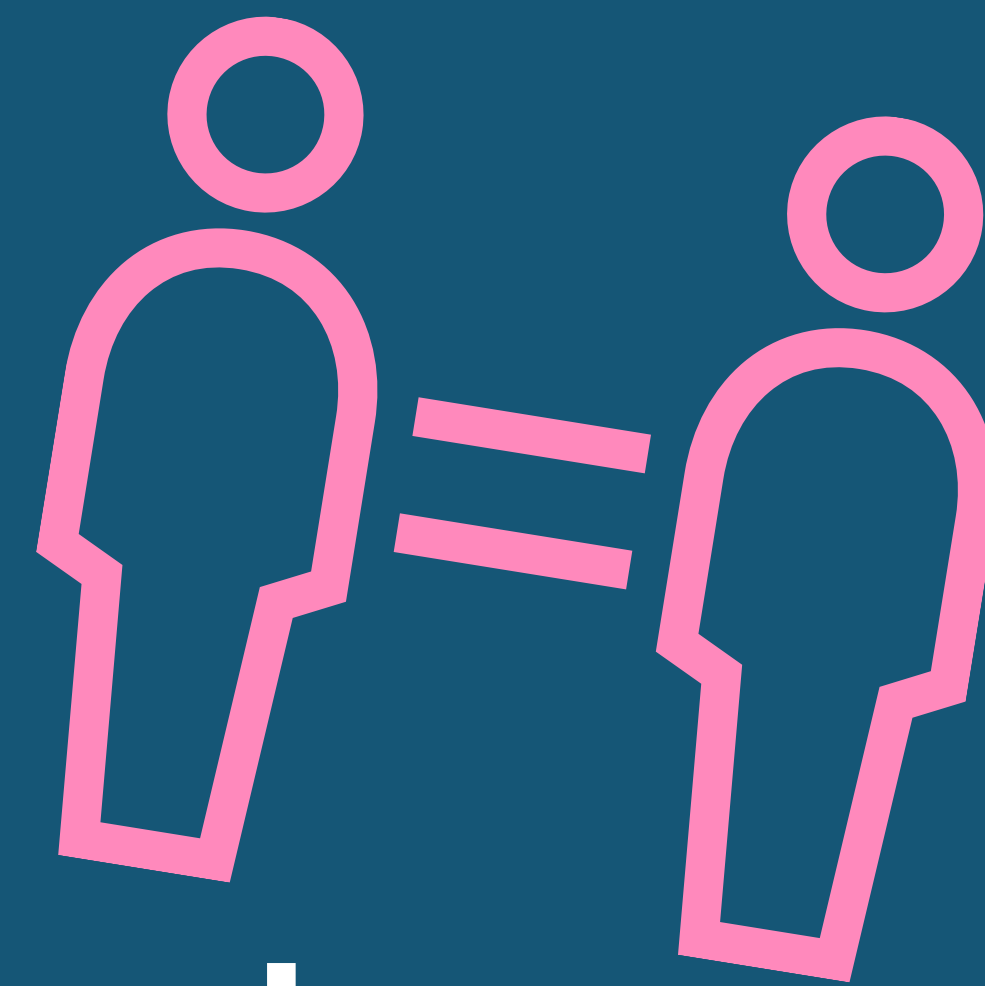
Understanding the
difference between equity
and equality and how to
break it down for children



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EQUALITY

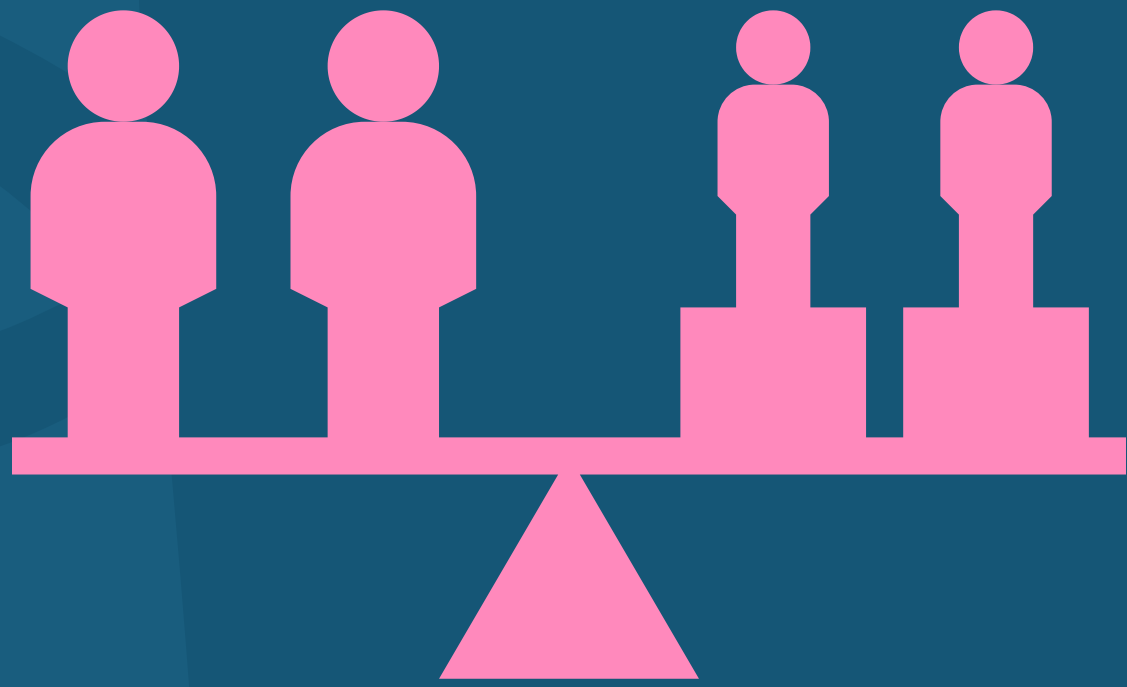
Equality means that all people in society have the same level of support and opportunities regardless of gender, race, sex, religion, etc.



Example:

All children have access to K-12 education.

EQUITY



Equity means that different levels of support and assistance are provided to different individuals based on their specific needs.

Example:

A child with a disability is provided with a paraprofessional to support them while at school.



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WHY DOES THE DIFFERENCE MATTER?

→ Equality depends on equity. ←



Every person is different and enters situations with varying life circumstances, strengths, and needs.

Equity requires providing a path to success for all individuals with their differences in mind to achieve equality in society.

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WHEN EQUAL IS NOT EQUITABLE

Focusing on equality can result in overlooking the unique needs of individuals.

Equality is providing all children with laptops for distance learning. Equity is ensuring all students have reliable access to wireless internet connection, making adaptations for those with visual or hearing impairments, ensuring parents know how to use technology, etc.




Equality is providing the same amount of funding to all schools. Equity is ensuring schools serving vulnerable populations are provided with the funding necessary to secure high-quality teachers, access to quality technology, access to necessary specialists and supports, etc.

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HELPING CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE

It can be difficult for children to understand why someone may be receiving more resources than them.

Remind the child that each person is different and they all need different things to be successful.



Why does she get to sit in a chair during circle time and I don't?

Carly's muscles like to wiggle a lot. She sits in a chair during circle time because she is learning how to stay in her personal space. The chair helps her to see how much space she has on the carpet. The chair also helps her to wiggle her muscles if she needs to without hitting others near her.

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RESOURCES

Equity vs equality and how they are different. (n.d.). University of the People: The Education Revolution. Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/equity-vs-equality/>

Why understanding equity vs equality in schools can help you create an inclusive classroom. (2019, May 2). Waterford.org. Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.waterford.org/education/equity-vs-equality-in-education/>