

How to Talk to White Children about Racism

DOK
Conversations with Daughters
August 8, 2020

*Move
your
Zoom
window
to
this
area*



Privileges Whites Have ...

- Good public schools
- Respect from others
- College acceptance
- Shopping privilege
- Mortgage approval
- Residential privilege
- Societal inclusion
- Never having to think about race



Whites Control Institutions*

People who decide what TV shows we see: 91% white

People who decide what books we read: 90% white

People who decide which news is covered: 85% white

Full-time college professors: 84% white

Teachers: 82% white

US Congress: 90% white

US governors: 96% white



* Robin Di Angelo's book *White Fragility* provides numbers of the racial breakdown of the people who controlled some of our institutions in 2016-2017.

How to Teach White Children to be Anti-Racist

Racism is taught
Never too young
Children see patterns in life
Silence reinforces white privilege
Learn and talk about racism

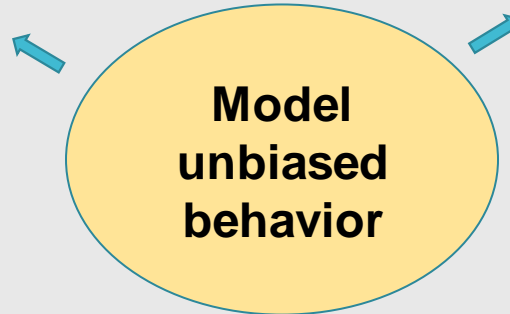


How to Teach White Children to be Anti-Racist – Ages 0-2

Parents must model
inclusivity and
unbiased conduct



How to Teach White Children to be Anti-Racist – Ages 3-4



Explain unfairness

Respond calmly

Complex to fix

How to Teach White Children to be Anti-Racist – Ages 5-11

- Listen for bias
- Chose diverse dolls/toys
- Foster conversations
- Be positive



How to Teach White Children to be Anti-Racist – Ages 12+

Discuss racial history
and disparities

Offer tolerant,
inclusive perspectives

Explore racialized patterns
in media



Unpack Things a White Child Might Say About Blacks

BREAK OUT
SESSIONS

1. **“Why is her hair weird and poofy like that?”**
2. **“That boy’s skin is dirty.”**
3. **“We didn’t play with them at the park because they’re Black or brown.”**
4. **“This Black doll isn’t as pretty as that white doll.”**
5. **“Black or brown kids only like to hang out with each other.”**
6. **“I don’t see color.”**

<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-white-parents-talk-kids-race>

How to Address Things a White Child Might Say about Blacks (#1)

“Why is her hair weird and poofy like that?”

Book recommendation: “Sulwe” by Oscar-winning actor Lupita Nyong’o is a powerful, moving picture book about colorism, self-esteem, and learning that true beauty comes from within.

How to Address Things a White Child Might Say about Blacks (#2)

“That boy’s skin is dirty.”

Book recommendation: “Last Stop on Market Street” by Matt de la Peña .
This picture book helps kids celebrate and talk about diversity.

How to Address Things a White Child Might Say about Blacks (#3)

**“We didn’t play with them
at the park because
they’re Black or brown.”**

Book recommendation: “A is for Activist” by Innosanto Nagara is an ABC board book for families who want their kids to grow up in a space that is unapologetic about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and so on.

How to Address Things a White Child Might Say about Blacks (#4)

**“This Black doll
isn’t as pretty as
that white doll.”**

Book recommendation: “Not My Idea” by Anastasia Higginbotham;
Helps white families teach their children about racism, privilege and
White supremacy so kids understand what it means to be actively anti-racist.

How to Address Things a White Child Might Say about Blacks (#5)

“Black or brown kids only like to hang out with each other.”

Book recommendation: “Separate is Never Equal” by Duncan Tonatiuh; a wonderful story to learn about treating everyone kindly.

How to Address Things a White Child Might Say about Blacks (#6)

“I don’t see color.”

Book recommendation: “Each Kindness” by Jaquelyn Woodson; a wonderful story to learn about treating everyone kindly.

Summary

LEARN → LISTEN → TALK → ACT

It's not just what parents say,
but what they do that matters.

Step up to the plate;
act as allies; use your privilege for good.

Lord, what will you have me do?