

Talking to Our Children about Racism

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. - James Baldwin

The death of George Floyd has placed a glaring light on the realities of continued personal, institutional and systemic racism in our country, and it has hopefully opened the nation's eyes to the need for action in order to guarantee safety and equality for every citizen. But as adults trying to make sense of the tragedies that have brought us to this point, many of us are also asking, "What do we say to the kids?" Experts tell us that conversations with our children about race and racism may not be comfortable or easy... but they are **absolutely necessary** to achieve the awareness, understanding and actions that fight racism, and the insidious injustice and inequity that it perpetuates. We want a better world for *all* our kids, and we want to help them build a better world for themselves and generations to follow.

The following is not a complete list of the many resources that are available, but places to get started.

Thoughts and Tips for Talking to Kids (all ages)

Getting ready to talk about it--A collection of readings about how children learn about race:

[How Kids Learn About Race | EmbraceRace](#)

Teaching Tolerance. [Beyond the Golden Rule](#)

[A PARENT'S GUIDE to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice](#)

CNN Health: [How to talk to your children about protests and racism](#)

[How to talk to kids about race and racism, according to experts](#)

Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk about Race - Resource Roundup

<https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4>

[Anti-Racism for Kids 101—Starting the Conversation](#)

Tweens and Teens:

Anti-Defamation League: [Table Talk About Current Events](#)

[George Floyd, Racism and Law Enforcement](#)

Read with Your Teen: [The Hate U Give](#) by Angie Thomas

[The Hate U Give](#)

Parent/Teen Discussion Guide for The Hate U Give:

<https://www.adl.org/media/10848/download>

Watch with Your Teen:

In this story from Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity, a film from World Trust, author and educator Joy DeGruy shares how her sister-in-law uses her white privilege to stand up to systemic inequity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wf9QBnPK6Yg>

TED-Talk: How to raise a black son in America | Clint Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us70DN2XSfM>

Young children:

About Race and Racism for young children:

[Becoming Upended: Teaching and Learning about Race and Racism with Young Children and Their Families](#)

Raising Race-Conscious Children

[Raising Race Conscious Children | Resource for Talking About Race & Diversity](#)

Conversation/awareness starters for young children

[100 race-conscious things you can say to your child to advance racial justice](#)

([You-Tube Read-aloud](#)). "Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice" by Marianne Cellano (for 4 to 8 year olds)

Books to Read with Your Child:

[Books Matter: Children's Literature](#)

Anti-Racism Resources for Kids and Families (Denver Public Library) Suggested Reading List

[Resources for Talking With Kids About Race | Kids](#)

Adult Reading/Listening Suggestions: Experts also tell us that conversations with our children are most effective when we engage in our own learning about racism and ways in which bias is often unconsciously conveyed.

White Kids: Growing Up with Privilege in a Racially Divided America. Margaret A. Hagerman

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race. Beverly Tatum

Systemic Racism in the United States: Scaffolding as Social Construction. Robbie Tourse, Johnnie Hamilton-Mason, Nancy Wewiorski

So You Want to Talk About Race. Ijeoma Oluo

Between the World and Me. Ta-Nehisi Coates

["Where do I donate? Why is the uprising violent? Should I go protest? And other commonly asked questions by white and/or privileged people, answered by other white and/or privileged people.](#) By Courtney Martin

Being Nice is Not Going to End Racism | [YouTube presentation:](#) Robin DiAngelo