



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Student Support

Child Development:

- It is often assumed that we should not start talking about race until kids are older. However, research shows that it is never too early to start.
 - [“Your Kids Aren’t Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup”](#)
 - [“Your Age-by-Age Guide to Talking About Race](#)
 - [“How to Teach Your Kids to Fight Hate: An Age-by-Age Guide”](#)

Are your kids too young to talk about race?

Nope. Silence about race can reinforce racism by letting children draw their own conclusions.

<p>0-1 year</p> <p>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.</p> <p><small>Kelly et al, 2005</small></p>	<p>2 years</p> <p>Children as young as 2 use race to reason about people’s behaviors.</p> <p><small>Hirschfeld, 2008</small></p>	<p>2.5 years</p> <p>By 30 months, most children use race to choose playmates.</p> <p><small>Katz & Kofkin, 1997</small></p>	<p>4-5 years</p> <p>Expressions of racial prejudice often peak at ages 4 and 5.</p> <p><small>Aboud, 2008</small></p>
<p>5 years</p> <p>Black and latinx children in research settings show no preference toward their own groups, as compared to white children at this age, who are more likely to be strongly biased in favor of whiteness.</p> <p><small>Dunham et al, 2008</small></p>	<p>5 years</p> <p>By kindergarten, children show many of the same racial attitudes held by adults in our culture. They have already learned to associate some groups with higher status than others.</p> <p><small>Kinzler, 2016</small></p>	<p>5-7 years</p> <p>Explicit conversations with 5-7 year olds about interracial friendship can dramatically improve their racial attitudes in as little as a single week.</p> <p><small>Bronson & Merryman, 2009</small></p>	<p>Adapted from work by the Children’s Community School.</p> <p>More info at childrenscommunityschool.org/social-justice-resources/</p> <p>Design provided by prettygooddesign.org</p>

Books for Adults:

- ["Raising White Kids" by Dr. Jennifer Harvey](#)
 - [Article by Dr. Jennifer Harvey "How do I make sure I am not raising the next Amy Cooper?"](#)
- ["White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo](#)
- ["How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi](#)
- ["Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" by Beverly Daniel Tatum](#)
 - [Ted Talk by Beverly Daniel Tatum "Is My Skin Brown Because I Drank Chocolate Milk?"](#)

Other Resources for Adults:

- ["Anti-Racism for Kids 101: Starting to Talk About Race"](#)
- ["How to Talk to Kids About Race and Racism"](#)
- ["Supporting Vulnerable Students in Stressful Times: Tips for Parents"](#)
- ["Beyond the Golden Rule" A Publication by Teaching Tolerance \(tolerance.org\)](#)
- ["Let's Talk: How to Talk to Kids About Race" on PBS](#)

Antiracism Books for Children (all appropriate for most ages):

- ["All Are Welcome" by Alexandra Penfold](#)
- ["Someday is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 OKC Sit-Ins" by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich](#)
- ["A is for Activist" by Innosanto Nagara](#)
- ["What's the Difference? Being Different is Amazing" by Doyin Richards](#)
- ["Something Happened in Our Town" by Marianne Celano](#)
- ["The Day You Begin" by Jacqueline Woodson](#)
- ["We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands" by Rafael Lopez](#)
- ["Skin Like Mine" by LaTashia M. Perry](#)
- ["a kids book about racism" by Jealano Memory \(also available on YouTube \[here.\]\(#\)\)](#)
- There are many great books about people of color in history:
 - ["Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race" by Margot Lee Shetterly](#)
 - ["Malala's Magic Pencil" by Malala Yousafzai](#)
 - ["Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History" by Vashti Harrison](#)
 - ["Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History" by Vashti Harrison](#)

- [“Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa” by Jeanette Winter](#)
- [“Malcom Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Be Malcom X” by Ilyasah Shabazz](#)
- Diverse books to add to your collection:
 - [“Grace for President” by Kelly DiPucchio](#)
 - [“I Am Enough” by Grace Byers](#)
 - [“Last Stop on Market Street” by Matt de la Pena](#)
 - [“Trombone Shorty” by Troy Andrews](#)

Other Resources:

- [Sesame Street “I Love My Hair” Song](#)
- [“Hair Love” Short Film by Matthew A. Cherry](#)
- [“Let’s Talk About Race” Read Aloud by Julius Lester](#)
- [“OurStory”](#) is a great way to find diverse books.
- [“Biracial Bookworms”](#) is another great resource to find diverse books.
- [“The Conscious Kid”](#) promotes access to children’s books centering underrepresented and oppressed groups and has some great resources.

*Special Thanks to Sarah Kirk, school counselor at Tulsa Public Schools, OSCA School Counselor of the Year and ASCA National School Counselor of the Year Finalist for compiling this list of resources.