



**Start the Conversation**  
**Our Relationship to Race: *Noticing Difference***  
**Resource Guide**

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## **Resources for Adult Learning**

### **Is My Skin Brown Because I Drank Chocolate Milk?**

Beverly Daniel Tatum

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_TFaS3KW6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_TFaS3KW6s)

*"When her 3-year-old son told her that a classmate told him that his skin was brown because he drank chocolate milk, Dr. Tatum, former president of Spelman College and a visiting scholar at Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service, was surprised. As a clinical psychologist, she knew that preschool children often have questions about racial difference, but she had not anticipated such a question. But through conversations with her preschool son, followed by talking to teachers, colleagues and parents, she came to realize it is the things we don't say and the matters we don't discuss with our children that find their way into racist dialogue and thinking."*

### **Talking Race with Young Children**

NPR & Beverly Daniel Tatum

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/691961968?storyId=691961968?storyId=691961968>

#### *Key Takeaways...*

- *Kids are not color blind! So don't push them to be color silent. Explain what they are seeing and why.*
- *Emphasize the importance of difference as well as similarities.*
- *Educate against the stereotype!*
- *You can talk with kids about racism and white supremacy:*
  - *Highlight the helpers*
  - *Give concrete information*
- *Model for your young person.*

### **Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors**

Rudine Sims Bishop

<https://witschicago.org/windows-mirrors-and-sliding-glass-doors>

*How can we use children's books as mirrors of representation and turn windows into sliding glass doors?*

## **A Talk To Teachers**



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James Baldwin

[https://www.spps.org/cms/lib010/MN01910242/Centricity/Domain/125/baldwin\\_atalktoteachers\\_1\\_2.pdf](https://www.spps.org/cms/lib010/MN01910242/Centricity/Domain/125/baldwin_atalktoteachers_1_2.pdf)

*“All this enters the child’s consciousness much sooner than we as adults would like to think it does. As adults, we are easily fooled because we are so anxious to be fooled. But children are very different. Children, not yet aware that it is dangerous to look too deeply at anything, look at everything, look at each other, and draw their own conclusions. They don’t have the vocabulary to express what they see, and we, their elders, know how to intimidate them very easily and very soon. But a black child, looking at the world around him, though he cannot know quite what to make of it, is aware that there is a reason why his mother works so hard, why his father is always on edge.” - James Baldwin*

**They’re Not Too Young to Talk About Race**

<https://themodernmamajama.com/2018/10/01/talk-kids-race/>

*Did you know that children begin to notice racial difference as early as three months old? This article shares an infographic that outlines a child’s development as it relates to noticing race.*

**The Archaeology of the Self**

Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz

<https://vimeo.com/299137829>

*“In order to be open to other people’s stories you have to be aware of who you are and what you bring into the classroom”*

**Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man: Chip & Joanna Gaines + Kids**

Emmanuel Acho

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfo1XJDJKSU&t=22s>

*Chip and Joanna Gaines sit down with Emmanuel Acho to discuss color blindness vs. seeing color. Emmanuel shares the importance of teaching children to see color and notice race.*

**The ABCs of Racial Literacy with NYU and Sesame Workshop**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3V8zWp5uCc>

*“Watch educators from Sesame Workshop and NYU Steinhardt offer insights into a critical issue of our time: how to address race and racial justice with young children.”*



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**Sometimes Your A Caterpillar by Chescaleigh**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRiWgx4sHGg>

*This video creatively explores privilege through a caterpillar and snail metaphor.*

**Embrace Race Resources**

**Why and How to Talk to Young Kids about Race**

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/why-how-to-talk-to-young-kids-about-race>

- *What are the questions young people are asking about race and difference?*
- *What questions can WE ask young people to get them thinking critically and intentionally about race?*
- *Silence holds power, by being silent we send a message*
- *“Did you notice...” or “what did you notice”; beginning looking at a person. What do we notice? And begin there. Example at 33:00.*

**Supporting Healthy Racial Learning in Early Childhood**

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/topic/race-and-early-childhood>

This is a collection of webinars, articles, action guides and book lists to help support your children's early childhood development.

**Early Childhood Collection...**

[https://www.embracerace.org/4moms?utm\\_source=instagram&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=4moms](https://www.embracerace.org/4moms?utm_source=instagram&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=4moms)

*“Early childhood is the critical time in the development of children's ideas and attitudes about race. This collection of resources, supported by 4moms®, provides anti-racist resources for adults as we engage in a thoughtful, informed and age-appropriate way with the children in our lives. EmbraceRace and our community of caregivers and early childhood educators is here to support you on the journey to raising a race-brave generation.”*

**Seeing, Noticing and Talking About Differences with Young Children**

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/seeing-noticing-talking-about-difference-with-young-children>



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## **Resources for Adult & Child Learning**

### **Sesame Street**

#### **Racial Justice: Sesame Workshop**

<https://www.sesameworkshop.org/what-we-do/racial-justice>

*This is a RICH resource for videos, activities and books that help adults begin and continue nuanced conversations about race!*

*“Coming Together is Sesame Workshop's commitment to racial justice. We believe in a world where all children can reach their full potential and humanity—and do so in celebration of their races, ethnicities, and cultures. Together with experts, we've designed developmentally appropriate resources to help you guide your child to be smarter, stronger, and kinder—and an upstander to racism.”*

#### **Explaining Race: #ComingTogether**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk\\_HYAiS26I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk_HYAiS26I)

*“When Elmo notices that some of the leaves in the park match his red fur and some match his friend Wes's brown skin, he wonders how skin gets its color. Wes's dad Elijah explains it's from melanin—something everyone has in their bodies that gives us our skin, eye, and hair color. These things make us who we are, and many people call this race. But like the leaves on a tree, the colors are most beautiful when they are standing together!”*

### **PBS Kids**

#### **PBS Kids Talk About: Race & Racism**

<https://pbskids.org/video/dots-spot/3047127185>

*Hosted by Amanda Gorman, this half-hour program features authentic conversations on race and racial justice between real children and parents. The video also features a range of multiracial family identities.*



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## Recommended Children's Books & Book Lists

### *Featuring Themes of Difference, Race and Ability:*

- [Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race](#) by Jessica Ralli and Megan Madison
- [Just Ask!: Be Different. Be Brave. Be You](#) by Sonia Sotomayor
- [The Day You Begin](#) by Jacqueline Woodson
- [The Colors of Us](#) by Karen Katz
- [Red: A Crayon's Story](#) by Michael Hall
- [The Sandwich Swap](#) by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah with Kelly Dipucchio
- [Beautifully Me](#) by Nabela Noor

### *Curated Book Lists & Series:*

- [First Conversations](#)
    - From the creators of *Our Skin*, there are two additional books on Gender and Consent as well as additional resources!
  - [25 Children's Books that Celebrate Difference](#)
  - [21 Books That Teach Little Kids About Race, Justice, and Equality](#)
  - [21 Powerful Children's Books about Race and Racism](#)
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## Resources on Other Types of Difference

### **6 Ways to Teach Your Kids About Disabilities**

<https://www.scarymommy.com/disability-awareness-for-kids>

### **How to Prepare Your Young Child for Differences**

<https://www.healthpartners.com/blog/teach-them-to-embrace-diversity/>

- *"Why do you think it is that he might be in a wheelchair?"*
- *"What if there was a kid at school who was also in a wheelchair?"*
- *"What if your friends at school were bullying or being mean to that kid and saying he couldn't play with them or with you because he looks different?"*