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Increasing Awareness of Privilege: Towards Racial/Cultural Equity and Inclusion in Early Childhood Education

Webinar 3 of the 4-part series.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? Culturally Responsive Teaching & Learning in Early Childhood Education

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Our Presenter

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Amare Counseling and Education

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Assisting today's presenter



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Objectives

- Understand** how privilege based on race and culture permeates through inequity of resources and opportunities to become culturally competent educators.
- Reflect** on the impact of young children's privilege on their relationships with peers and adults, within the context of both homogeneous and diverse early childhood education programs to be aware of myriad emotions children could express.
- Identify** strategies and resources for increasing young children's awareness of racial/cultural privilege and practices to promote solidarity and empathy with others from underprivileged backgrounds.

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Privilege in the US manifests in...

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What is Race?

A power construct of difference that lives socially.

Kendi, 2019

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What is privilege?

Preferential access to resources

Systemic Relative

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How we learn about privilege

By age 4 children express racial prejudice.

Children's Community School, 2018
American Psychological Association, 2021

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How privilege is perpetuated

Mass media Systemic discrimination Implicit bias in education Community segregation

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Impact of Privilege on Children

- Sense of deserving
- Perpetuating consequences of discrimination
- Limited relationships with underprivileged peers/adults
- Limited experiences that are outside the privilege zone

Hagerman, 2018
American Psychological Association, 2021

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Why adults do not teach young children about privilege...

I don't know what you guys are complaining about...

- Discomfort
- Perceived as unaffected directly
- Not ready developmentally
- Unaware of impact of discrimination

Hagerman, 2018
American Psychological Association, 2021

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Planting Seeds in Early Childhood

Comprehensive Racial Learning:
Children actively negotiate and make meaning of the messages about race, forming their own understanding.

Hagerman, 2018

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Messages for Awareness of Privilege

- People can have more or less opportunities.
- Exclusion can happen to any of us.
- Minorities have less income and have limited opportunities in the US.

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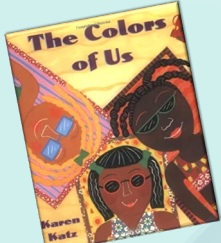
Messages about Solidarity and Empathy

- Empathy is a skill that can be developed.
- It is unfair to exclude anyone
- Exclusion affects different parts of identity.
- Inclusion of ALL benefits ALL.

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Promoting Awareness of Race/Culture

- Start with awareness of race/culture.
- Highlight racial/cultural differences and similarities inside/outside the program and community.
- Role-model interest in/comfort with the topic.

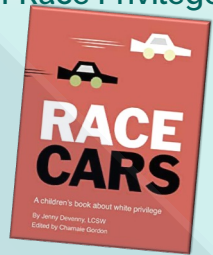


Katz, Karen. The Colors of Us. Square Fish, 2012

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Promoting Awareness of Race Privilege

- Introduce and practice fairness/unfairness, and inclusion/exclusion.
- Acknowledge that not all have the same opportunities.
- Convey that we can change this!




Denney, J. Race Cars. A Children's Book about white privilege. Francis Lincoln Children's Books, 2021.

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Promoting Awareness of Money

- Teach the concept of money as the main form to access goods and opportunities through pretend play and observation of reality.
- Acknowledge that not all people have enough money for their needs.

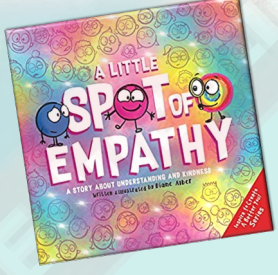


Brandt, L. Maddi's Fridge. Flashlight Press, 2014.

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Promoting Empathy

- Process together the feelings that arise.
- Having one's feelings validated increases the capacity to empathize with others.
- Reward inclusive feelings and acts



Albert, D. A Little Spot of Belonging. Diane Albert Art LLC, 2021.

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Inclusive Cultural Empathy:

EMPATHY

Emotional process involving capacities like tolerance, humbleness & authenticity.




Pedersen, Crethar, and Carlson, 2008

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Promoting Solidarity

- Facilitate friendships with peers who are different.
- Play collaborative games, and play with toys/books that show the benefits of inclusion.
- Make art projects and songs that support connection and inter-dependence.



Rosen, M. This Is Our House. Candlewick, 2005.

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Promoting Action

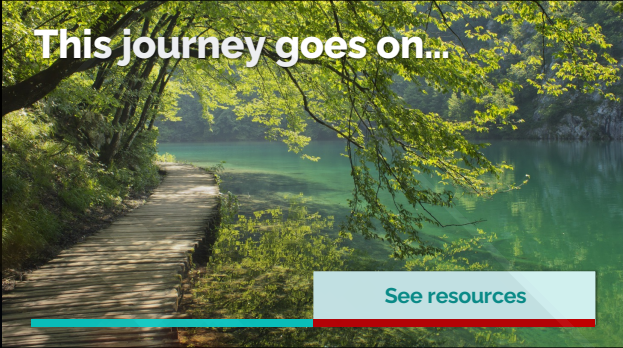
- Exclusion can happen to any of us.
- If we have opportunities (privilege), we have the power to share them...we speak up for others and for ourselves.



Ekkins, 2020. Ryse Presents, 2016. Estrada, E. I Choose to Speak Up. Independently published, 2021.

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This journey goes on...



See resources

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Resources

The Children's Community School. 2018. They Are Not Too Young.
<http://www.childrenscommunityschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/theyre-not-too-young-1.pdf>

Implicit Teacher Bias: Walter Gillian.
<https://youtu.be/8bothKkHxRE>

PODCAST: Code Switch (Race, In Your Face) from NPR.
<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/>

PODCAST: Seeing White (2017) from Scene on Radio -
<http://www.sceneonradio.org/tag/season-2/>

RYSE Presents. Revealing White Privilege and Healing Racial Trauma with Dr. Kenneth Hardy. 2016.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRgssAtboyo>

Ekkins, S. Why White Students Need Multicultural and Social Justice Education. 2020.
<https://www.cultopedagogy.com/white-students-multicultural-ed/>

Sesame Street in Communities' Racial Justice -
<https://sesameincommunities.org/topics/racial-justice/>

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Resources

Carter, Robert T., and Alex L. Pieterse. Measuring the Effects of Racism: Guidelines for the Assessment and Treatment of Race-Based Traumatic Stress Injury. Columbia University Press, 2020.

Pedersen, Paul B., Crethar, Hugh C., and Carlson, Jon. Inclusive Cultural Empathy: Making Relationships Central in Counseling and Psychotherapy. American Psychological Association, 2008.

Romper Entertainment. 10 Children's Books That Help White Kids Understand What Children of Color Are Up Against.
<https://www.romper.com/p/10-childrens-books-that-help-white-kids-understand-what-children-of-color-are-up-against-15238>

American Psychological Association. Raising Anti-Racist Children. 2021. <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/06/anti-racist-children>

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Resources

Hagerman, M. A. White Kids. Growing Up with Privilege in a Racially Divided America. New York University Press, 2018.

Kendi, Ibram X. How to Be an Antiracist. One World, 2019.

The Teaching Tolerance Project. Starting Small: Teaching Tolerance in Preschool and the Early Grades. Southern Poverty Law Center, 1997.

Office of the Surgeon General (US); Center for Mental Health Services (US); National Institute of Mental Health (US). Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity: A Supplement to Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); 2001 Aug. PMID: 20669516.

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RESOURCES for Children

-  **Katz, K. The Colors of Us. Square Fish, 2012.**
-  **Brandt, L. Maddi's Fridge. Flashlight Press, 2014.**
-  **Devenny, J. Race Cars. A Children's Book about white privilege. Francis Lincoln Children's Books, 2021.**
-  **Rosen, M. This is Our House. Candlewick, 2005.**
-  **Alber, D. A Little Spot of Empathy. Diane Albert Art LLC, 2021.**
-  **Estrada, E. I Choose to Speak Up. Independently published, 2021.**
-  **Dr. Seuss. The Sneetches and Other Stories. Random House, 1961.**
-  **Collaborative board game: Yoga Garden**
https://www.amazon.com/YogaKids-The-Yoga-Garden-Game/dp/B001tNEZM/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=YOGA+GARDEN+GAME&qid=1626602383&sr=8-1

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

NEXT webinar

Responding to Overt Cultural/Racial Discrimination in Early Childhood Programs: Questions and Answers

June 15, 2022

The slide features a woman with glasses and a pink shirt sitting at a laptop. The background is a light yellow and green gradient.

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