

# Emerson | Office of the Superintendent

## Family Conversations Around Race

Families and community members are encouraged to visit the resources listed below as they navigate conversations about race, inclusion, and equality. This list will be updated from time to time, and community members are encouraged to send suggested materials to [bgatens@emersonschools.org](mailto:bgatens@emersonschools.org)

**Updated - January 14, 2020:**

The State of New Jersey Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission will host a FREE Virtual Youth Conference “Youth, We Hear You!” on Monday, January 18, 2021 , 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM EST. Through panels, workshops, and networking, the virtual conference will highlight the life and legacy of Dr. King in these challenging times, through sessions on “Justice Matters,” “Health Equity Matters, and “Dr. King’s Global Impact” with Consuls-General of India and Ghana, nations that Dr. King visited.

Register Here: <https://hopin.com/events/njmlkyouth>

### [How to Talk About Martin Luther King With Your Children](#)

From Scholastic Education, this article shares a parent's perspective on having conversations with children about the Civil Rights Movement.

### [The Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health](#)

From The American Academy of Pediatrics, this policy statement highlights the research around the role racism plays in child development and health outcomes both for children who are the targets of racism and those who witness it as bystanders. It is written for an audience of health-care workers but also provides important information and context for parents and educators.

### [The Power of We: A Sesame Street Special](#)

From Sesame Workshop, this special is available to watch with your children on PBS Kids or HBO Max and includes a [discussion guide](#).

### [From MLK to #BlackLivesMatter: A Throughline For Young Students](#)

From Teaching Tolerance, a first grade teacher shares the level at which elementary students are able to participate in conversations about civil rights. Teaching Tolerance also has a [page of resources for teachers](#) who will be discussing Dr. King in their classrooms.

### [The Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehesi Coates](#)

From *The Atlantic*, this article by Coates uses the story of one Chicago neighborhood to explain how public and private practices created wealth inequality along racial lines in the 20th century US. This background information may be useful to parents or accessed directly by high school students to inform conversations about how racism in our country goes beyond individual acts of prejudice or hatred.

### [Is the News Too Scary For Kids? How, And When, To Introduce Current Events To Your Children](#)

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From the New York Times, this article provides guidelines for parents around discussing events with their children which might be difficult to discuss or potentially frightening.

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**Updated - June 17, 2020:**

PENN Graduate School of Education

*Talking to Children After Racial Incidents*

<https://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/talking-children-after-racial-incidents>

Embrace Race

*Ten Tips for Teaching and Talking to Kids About Race*

PDF in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

*Children Are Not Colorblind: How Young Children Learn About Race* by Erin N. Winkler, Ph.D.

[https://nmaahc.si.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/resources/children\\_are\\_not\\_colorblind.pdf](https://nmaahc.si.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/resources/children_are_not_colorblind.pdf)

Brightly: A Penguin Random House Company

*How to Diversify Your Child's Bookshelf* by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

<https://www.readbrightly.com/how-to-diversify-your-childs-bookshelves/>

-----New Content may be found above this line -----

[Affirming Black Lives in School: Teachers, Administrators, Students](#)

This document is more focused on educators and the classroom, but the resources are widespread and will enable parents to choose from a wide variety of books, videos, and other media. This has been shared directly with the Emerson faculty and staff (Added 6.12.20)

[ASCD - Building Racial Justice and Equity](#)

ASCD is a nationally known and well-respected organization that has traditionally helped teachers and schools develop curriculum and teaching resources. As with other selections, this is primarily focused on teaching and learning, but families will find a broad swath of resources here.

[How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism](#) (parenttoolkit.com)

Conversation and dialogue is essential in helping young people make sense of the complex issues surrounding race, communication, understanding, and helping to avoid the mistakes of the past. This excellent resource offers parents the chance to initiate positive and productive conversations around difficult to address issues. (Added 6.5.20)

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## [Activities that Promote Racial and Cultural Awareness](#) (PBS)

Learning can also be done by doing (as well as by talking), and these activities offer children and families the chance to develop understanding by taking part in a variety of activities designed around understanding others, seeing different points of view, and increasing awareness. (Added 6.5.20)

## [National Museum of African American History and Culture - Talking About Race](#)

Our country's national museum on the experience and history of our African-American citizens offers an excellent series of resources for how parents can speak about race with their children. (Added 6.5.20)

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

Telling others to treat each other well is just the start, and this Tolerance.org resource expands on how thoughtful citizens can see and feel the experiences of others. This enables conversations and activities to take place that help to develop understanding. (Added 6.5.20)

## [National Association of School Psychologists: Social Justice](#)

Any conversation about racial justice and equality will spill over into larger conversations about power, privilege and how systems are designed to elevate some and repress others. This excellent NASP document serves to help families understand how best to address this challenging and thoughtful topic. (Added 6.5.20)