



we are Engaged Families

THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S INSIDE

What's coming up next?

What you may have missed!

Article: "What is Race? Having the Conversation With Young Children"

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

K-5 LITERACY + ARTS FOCUS



WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 3 + 4, 2021
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT WE ARE'S ANTI-RACIST CAMP CURRICULUM FOR YOUNG CHILDREN?

This workshop is designed for educators and community members who want to implement similarly designed curriculum in their own contexts.

Registration for this workshop has passed and is now closed.

WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

On September 30, **we are** hosted a panel discussion featuring the short film, "**Dear White Parents**" created by Margenett Moore-Roberts, IPC DXTRA's Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer.

The film shares an intimate view of enlightening, sometimes uncomfortable, family discussions focused on parents helping their children understand racism through current events and sharing their own stories about how they first became aware of racism.

The film that was directed by Academy Award-Nominee, Kevin Wilson, Jr., and features the reflections of anti-racism expert and executive curator of **we are**, Dr. Ronda Taylor-Bullock.

Watch the full film and panel discussion [here!](#)
Find guides and resources for the film [here!](#)



EMOTIONS & SELF-AWARENESS

SOCIAL SKILLS

CHARACTER

What is Race? Having the Conversation With Young Children

Sep 30, 2020



Dr. Aisha White is the director of the P.R.I.D.E. (Positive Racial Identity Development in Early Education) Program at the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development. Learn more about the program at racepride.pitt.edu.

Families should be talking more about race. That may be obvious given the level and frequency of anti-racism protests across the country over the past six months. But the talking I'm referring to is serious, thoughtful, and ongoing conversations about race, not short term reactions to current events.

We must talk about race so that we can understand it. We need to talk about race specifically in America because the ways it has been used are truly problematic and harmful. And we have to discuss it regularly so that we can become more aware of the unquestionable danger of its evil partner — racism. Race as an American concept cannot be separated from the way it has been crafted and manipulated historically, to the benefit of some and the detriment of others.

What is race?

There are probably as many definitions of race as there are scholarly fields that explore the human condition. Pulling from the field of anthropology can be helpful in taking a somewhat objective view of the topic.

According to the American Anthropological Association: Race is a recent human invention. It's only a few hundred years old, in comparison to the lengthy span of human history. Although not scientific, the idea of race proposed that there were significant differences among people that allowed them to be grouped into a limited number of categories or races.

What does that mean?

It means race is recent. It's a new concept when considered within the long history of human development. It's an invention, not a universal truth. It is not scientific. Race is not based on rigorous study or investigation — it is, essentially, made up. And, according to the definition, it allows the grouping of people into categories. Lumping people into groups is not necessarily a bad thing in and of itself, it's when we assign inherent attributes — typically negative ones — to groups because we have the power to do so, that problems begin to emerge.

Want to read the full article? Head to the [PBS for Parents](https://www.pbs.org/parents) site to keep learning!