

Talking about Activism with your Child

The importance of this discussion

It can be difficult to have conversations with your child about the racism and injustices that are apparent in our country right now. Topics you may choose to discuss with your child could include the prevalence of resistance and the importance of activism to challenge these injustices. The resource linked below explains the benefit of having these conversations with your child and how to prevent and respond to prejudice.



https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond_golden_rule.pdf

The following link is for an NPR podcast that also discusses how to successfully and appropriately have conversations about race with your child.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>

How to discuss protests with your child

As parents, you are able to raise your child's awareness of what it means to protest, what is hoped to be achieved through protesting, and why some may partake in protests at a young age. While these conversations are relevant in our current socio-political climate, bringing these topics up before your child does, and incorporating these topics into conversations regularly, can contribute to creating lasting awareness. Sachi Feris, a blogger at Raising Race Conscious, discusses the importance of these frequent conversations and explains that "talking about fairness on a day-to-day basis is how [you] connect larger social issues and the need to take action for change."

<http://www.raceconscious.org/2015/02/thats-not-fair-and-the-concept-of-protest/>

Some helpful guidelines if you bring your child with you to a protest

Historically, protests have been a crucial tool in prompting change, and they are something that young children will witness and experience for the rest of their lives. You may choose to not only talk about activism with your children, but also bring them with you if you are attending a protest. The following resource has some helpful guidelines to keep in mind if you choose to protest with your child.



https://www.huffpost.com/entry/11-tips-for-protesting-with-kids_b_587d41dae4b0740488c3ddb

Children in Protests

Children's voices have had power in creating change throughout history. While these children are typically older, raising their awareness can empower them to make a change starting now. This link discusses the Birmingham Children's Crusade in 1963, an example of youth making change in history.

<https://www.biography.com/news/black-history-birmingham-childrens-crusade-1963>

Books about activism

This resource provides high quality children's books that focus on and promote activism in general. There are also books that delve into specific social inequalities in various communities, such as topics like race, gender, sexuality, and disabilities..

<https://www.readbrightly.com/books-about-activism-for-kids/>