Racial Socialization as Resistance to Racism

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The Plan for Tonight

• Laying the foundation
• Parent panel
• Q & A
Is it important to talk to young children about race and racism?

- Yes
- Depends on how young
- I’m not sure
- No
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Infant and Toddler</strong></th>
<th><strong>Preschool</strong></th>
<th><strong>School Age</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Infants prefer same-race faces.</td>
<td>• Preschoolers use race to categorize others’ behaviors.</td>
<td>• Show evidence of societal messages affecting how they feel about self or group.</td>
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</tbody>
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(Derman-Sparks & Edwards, 2010; Lee et al., 2013; Van Ausdale & Feagin, 2001)
a conversation about race
Racial Socialization

• Messages that convey implicit and explicit messages about the meaning of race and strategies to cope with racism.
Racial Socialization

• Practices are different for different families.
• Multiple Contexts
  • Home
  • School
  • Neighborhoods
Types of Racial Socialization

- Cultural Socialization
- Preparation for Bias
- Promotion of Mistrust
- Egalitarianism

(Hughes & Chen, 1999; Hughes et al. 2006)
Cultural Socialization

- Practices used to teach children about their heritage, share customs and traditions, and emphasize racial pride.

- Parental Practices
  - Reading books about cultural history
  - Celebrations

- Educational Practices
  - Positive non-stereotypical roles
  - Afrocentric
Preparation for Bias

• Practices used to teach children about discrimination and bias while simultaneously introducing coping strategies to deal with racial prejudice.

• Parental Practices
  • Role playing

• Educational Practices
  • Challenging inequities
Promotion of Mistrust

• Practices used to warn or caution children to distance themselves from other ethnic or racial groups.

• Parental Practices
  • No explanation
  • No coping strategies

• Educational Practices
  • Special education vs. gifted classes
Egalitarianism

• Practices used to avoid any discussion about race, downplay the role of race in society, or emphasize individual traits over racial group membership.

• Parental Practices
  • Individual characteristics
  • Lack of focus on culture or group membership

• Educational Practices
  • Color-blind curriculum
The Parental Racial Socialization Process

- Communication is verbal and nonverbal
- Racial socialization goals that inform decisions
- Direct or indirect
- Proactive or reactive
- Bidirectional
Racial Socialization as a Protective Factor

- Academic performance and engagement
- Decreased behavior problems
- Improved psychological well-being
- Positive parent-child interactions
- Positive racial identity

(Baker, 2014; Caughy & Owen, 2016)
Engaging in Racial Socialization

- Age-appropriate
- Space
  - What did you notice?
  - How did that make you feel?
- Competency over content
  - Skills
  - Confidence
  - Stress

(Anderson & Stevenson, 2019; Anderson et al., 2020)