

In light of recent protests, many parents, educators, and caregivers are asking how best to speak to their children about racism, protests, and the Black Lives Matter movement. Below are some readily available resources that can help adults engage young children in important but challenging conversations about racism, diversity and inclusion. (I will keep adding to this list over time)

*Select children's books about celebrating diversity and our differences*

**[The Barefoot Book of Children](#)**

by Kate DePalma, Tessa Strickland, and David Dean

This book helps early readers expand their understanding of and appreciation for others by exploring how children live, eat, play, and more in different parts of the world. Emphasizing both the uniqueness and interconnectedness of all people, it's an interactive and beautifully illustrated way to engage early elementary schoolchildren in conversations about diversity.

**[Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You](#)**

by Sonia Sotomayor

This book about differences that make us each unique is aimed at the pre-school or younger elementary children. Written by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and illustrated by award-winning artist Rafael Lopez, it explores all sorts of challenges children might face and is a great starting point for age-appropriate conversations about the ideas of empathy and inclusion.

**[Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship](#)**

by Irene Latham and Charles Waters

This picture book is ideal for slightly older elementary-aged children. The authors' use their personal experiences as the inspiration for poems about everyday, humorous, relatable moments of growing up – covering topics like hobbies, family dinners and hair in ways that lead to natural conversations about race. This book is an honest and engaging way to explore interracial differences with your daughter or son.

**[Happy in Our Skin](#)**

by Fran Manushkin and Lauren Tobia

This picture book uses catchy rhymes to explore the everyday miracles of skin color. It provides a very basic, age-appropriate way to introduce young children (ages 2-5) to the ideas of diversity and acceptance.

*Select children's books about discrimination and racial injustice*

**[Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation](#)**

by Duncan Tonatiuh

This award-winning book tells the little-known story of the Mendez family and their fight to end segregation in California schools, seven years prior to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case was decided by the Supreme Court. It's an inspiring story of a Mexican American family's fight for justice and equality that will provide a sound foundation for discussions about prejudice, discrimination, and the historical context of today's protests.

### **[Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice](#)**

by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazard

This picture book geared to elementary age children is an effective way to introduce young kids to difficult topics of racial injustice and police shootings, and helps answer their questions about these traumatic events. It also includes detailed advice for parents to help you discuss race and racism with your daughter or son, including age-appropriate definitions and sample scripts to start the conversation.

### ***Resources for parents and educators***

### **[So You Want to Talk About Race](#)**

by Ijeoma Oluo

This is a great starting point for any parent or caregiver to feel better prepared for these conversations with the children in your life – In the words of the National Book Review, the author gives us “language to engage in clear, constructive, and confident dialogue with each other about how to deal with racial prejudices and biases.”

### **[Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race](#)**

By Beverly Danial Tatum

This recently updated edition of a bestseller that came out two decades ago explores race relations in America and is a great resource to deepen your understanding of social exclusion and racism.