

**Children’s Corner**

**How to Talk to Children About Diversity, Tolerance,**

**and Events in the News**

“We all want children to grow up in a world free from bias and discrimination, to reach for their dreams and feel that whatever they want to accomplish in life is possible. We want them to feel loved and included and never to experience the pain of rejection or exclusion. But the reality is that we do live in a world in which racism and other forms of bias continue to affect us. Discrimination hurts and leaves scars that can last a lifetime, affecting goals, ambitions, life choices, and feelings of self-worth.

How can we best prepare children to meet the challenges and reap the benefits of the increasingly diverse world they will inherit? We can raise children to celebrate and value diversity and to be proud of themselves and their family traditions. We can teach children to respect and value people regardless of the color of their skin, their physical abilities, or the language they speak.”

“Teaching Diversity: A Place to Begin,” Janet Gonzalez-Mena and Dora Pulido-Tobiassen, Scholastic.com

The issues of tolerance and diversity have been in the news all summer and fall. Many children are aware of what is happening. Difficult conversations are not to be avoided and can lead to growth and understanding. However, we do not have to wait for an incident to create programs where all are welcome. Toddlers and preschool age children can learn to share and work together. Older children can learn to “mix-it up,” sit with people they don’t know, and make new friends. Care givers must model in their behavior what we want children to do.

In your program, there are simple things you can do to show children that everyone is welcome. Your books should be diverse and readily assessable to the children. The art on your walls should portray our diverse world. Do children find themselves in the food you serve and the music you play? Can every one find themselves in the program?

Many organizations have resources for you, which you will find here. Explore them and decide which will work best for your program. Each age group will need a different approach. Below you will find a number of excellent resources to support diversity and tolerance in your program.

The Child Care Council is here to offer support, training, and resources. Contact Idie Benjamin at 914-761-3456 ext. 108 for assistance.

**Books for Teaching Tolerance and Diversity**

<http://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/teaching-tolerance.html>

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/books-that-promote-tolerance-and-diversity>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/15-great-childrens-books-that-celebrate-diversity/>

<http://cell.msmc.edu/literature/>

**Books That May Help Your Child Understand Troubling News**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/books/review/children-violence-racism-charlottesville.html?_r=0>

# You Can’t Teach Kids Empathy, but These Picture Books Inspire It

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/books/review/why-am-i-me-paige-britt-empathy-children.html>

**Teaching Resources**

**Scholastic**

**Teaching Diversity: A Place to Begin**

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/teaching-diversity-place-begin-0/>

**Healthychildren.org**

**How To Talk To Children About Racial Bias**

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/emotional-wellness/Building-Resilience/Pages/Talking-to-Children-About-Racial-Bias.aspx>

# Teaching Tolerance

# Charlottesville Roundup: Lessons to Use in Your Classroom Today

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/charlottesville-roundup-lessons-to-use-in-your-classroom-today>

**Now-Based Curriculum**

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/nowbased-curriculum>

**Professional Development That Helps K-12 Leaders Shape Their Schools Into Strong, Equitable Communities.**

<https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development?utm_source=Teaching+Tolerance&utm_campaign=4bf4540206-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_08_30&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a8cea027c3-4bf4540206-83491659>

**A Framework for Anti-Bias Education**

<https://www.tolerance.org/frameworks/social-justice-standards>

**Mix-It Up at Lunch Day**

<https://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up>

**Anti-Defamation League**

**How Should We Talk With Young People About Charlottesville?**

<https://www.adl.org/blog/how-should-we-talk-with-young-people-about-charlottesville>

**When Hate Is In The Headlines: Resources For K-12 Educators – on-demand Webinar**

<https://sharemylesson.com/teaching-resource/when-hate-headlines-resources-k-12-educators-288511>

[**After Charlottesville: Teaching about Racism, Anti-Semitism and White Supremacy**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001gsOODXLoUsuk8a2GIwcn8UJWBC7EsJGgMw7U-QVTVmTAECEc02eXvzqYKCAAt-OlHYQ30TOmxMbaW6DNSRNkpy6b7dt467U0G0aavuVCiVR36vSd0tJIt3cWSTdHy4bf63XX5YcdTRQsvgxVYL39xwM81COijzCPnUZSvpzATazhlTEDfxrq1Io0cmtGZkEQWCLXrOs85RYJBIxw1HXFYtskGlWgd64PTdQN9Q9RqWgoHmWZ3YQV0cuI1MuxC67OUYfAckCpCN-uqozKwsdaEGeXaKT0JIRCM4wEhPZArva0XHLtvyJplA==&c=XKEDdMNkm_7LD-8-Mit6IqDUdyQW892dL_c-WBeTSrS9PcvJ6xrlpA==&ch=BH_nwndXYW4S3owdQauZnCeQ3HNkvAPQXhfiGiMQ9pxvZgxaea7vaw==)

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/after-charlottesville-teaching-about-racism-anti-semitism>

**Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events**

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk>