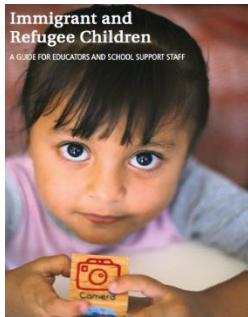


**There are 4.1 million U.S. born children with at least one parent or family member who is undocumented.**



### ***Supporting our Mentees with Undocumented Family***

Recent governmental action and rumors have brought about safety concerns for many of our mentees and their families. Lives hang in the balance as undocumented individuals are being forced to think about making difficult and painful decisions. At last month's Seedling Mentor Training, Vice President of Education Austin and 4<sup>th</sup> year Seedling mentor Montserrat Garibay presented crucial information that was recently shared with educators and families of AISD students about how immigrants can prepare themselves if immigration enforcement officials come to their home or try to question them. Our goal in presenting this information was not so mentors would feel responsible for sharing it, but rather to make mentors aware and knowledgeable, to help make sense of what their mentees say, should the subject arise. As a mentor, you can support your mentee in dealing with his/her feelings. Should your mentee express concern:

- Refrain from asking directly about this issue. If you want to test the water, you could ask if your mentee knows anyone who is worried.
- Remember that asking "How does that make you feel?" is always the best response.
- If your mentee volunteers that they're worried or scared, you don't have to ask this question. They just told you. If it seems safe, you could ask if the family has a plan if the caregiver is picked up.
- Avoid stigmatizing language: illegal, alien.
- Refrain from inquiring about the student or family's immigration status, but if it is disclosed convey openness and an assurance of confidentiality in discussing this topic.

There are many wonderful books mentors can read with their mentee to provide support. For elementary age, click here <http://coloursofus.com/multicultural-childrens-books-lists/multicultural-childrens-books-elementary-school/>

For middle and high school age, click here <http://coloursofus.com/multicultural-childrens-books-lists/multicultural-childrens-books-middle-school/>

To check availability in your mentee's school library, click below

<http://ibistro.austinisd.org/>

<http://library1.hayscisd.net/>

<http://www.pfisd.net/Domain/1585> and choose Library Catalog

*Mentors in other locations should inquire with their individual school librarians.*

If your mentee needs something, you can alert the counselor. And, as always, if you feel your mentee needs something the school is not providing, discuss with your Mentor Director.

We admire that our mentors can set aside any biases or assumptions just to be present for a child, and we are honored that you join with us to do what Seedling was created to do: unite a community behind the good of a child.

To learn more about Education Austin click here <http://educationaustin.org/>