



KIDS, RACE, AND RACISM: WHERE TO START

with Melissa Patrick, MSW

presented by SPARK Kindness



Goals

- nurture your kids so they develop healthy racial identities
- teach them to respond to racism
- prepare them to have interracial relationships in the world

Where do we start?

- with your own racial story
- examine the messages taught about your own racial groups and other racial groups



Antiracist Parenting...

- name and claim your racial identity
- is proactive, intentional and strategic
- model behaviors, including mistakes
- is collaborative

Equity means kids get what they need

- BIPOC kids first need to learn tools to manage the racism they will experience, then making sure they are learning accurate information about others who are racially different (or different) in general.
- White kids need to learn accurate information about those who are racially different first, then about their own racial identity.



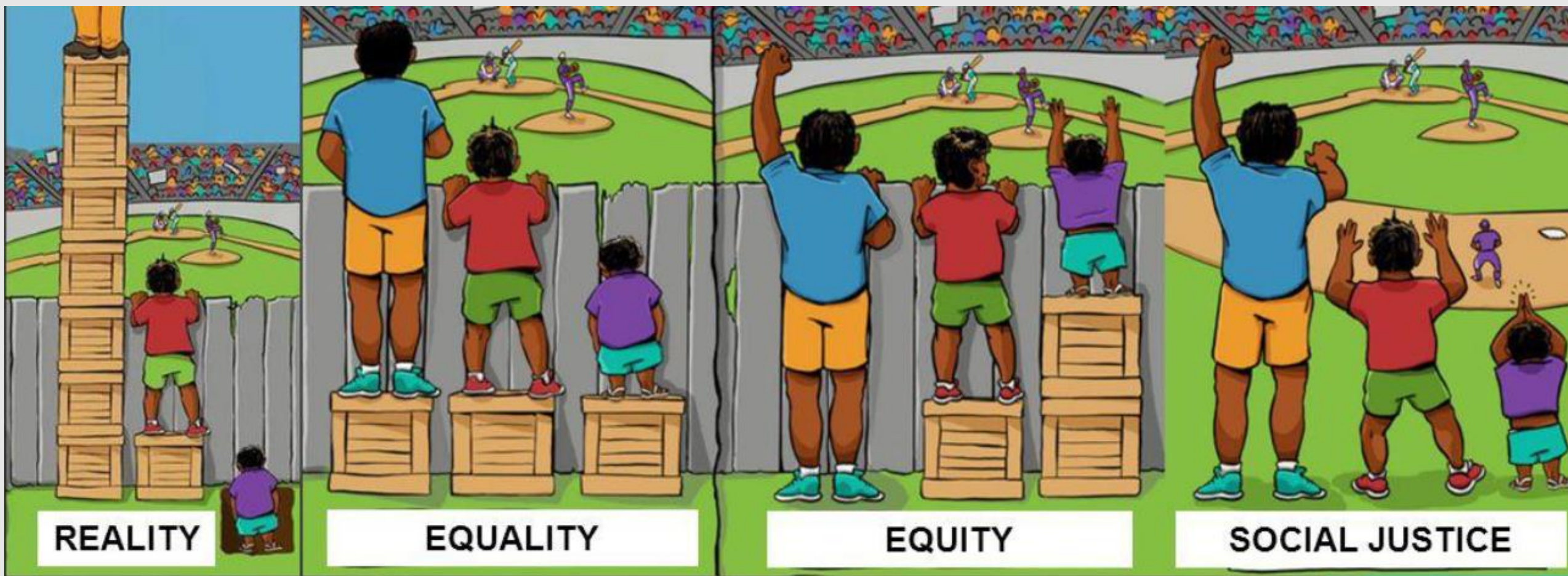
Younger Kids

- appreciate and value differences. Talk to them about differences...
- explore differences through the senses: Music, Art, books, food, etc.
- monitor media (especially mainstream, e.g. Disney)
- seek out diverse playgroup, playgrounds. White kids need minority experiences
- follow their leads with open ended questions.
- pay attention to what happens at daycare or school.



Older kids

- Pay attention to social media – Instagram and Snapchat!
- Begin to explore ideas of power and privilege.
- Debunk stereotypes or overgeneralizations
- Step aside and agency and activism to recognize and resist.
- Encourage cool minds and personal responsibility.
- To be an ally / co-conspirator NOT a savior



Path to Liberation

Source: Craig Froehle (concept), Interaction Institute for Social Change. Artist: Angus Maguire

Thank

You