

CONNECT AND REFLECT

**Reflecting on Black History Month
and Exploring
Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist Education for Young Children**



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional and unsundered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg Peoples. This acknowledgment reminds us of the importance of equity and justice for all communities, including Indigenous and Black communities. By recognizing Indigenous and Black histories, we deepen our understanding of systemic inequities and honor the resilience and contributions of these communities

We, as a community of educators and frontline professionals, commit to ongoing learning and understanding of Truth and unwavering action toward Reconciliation and Equity for all citizens.

Spotlight on Carrie Best

Witness to daily incidents of racism, she became a civil rights activist and in 1946 co-founded The Clarion, the first newspaper to be owned and published by Black Nova Scotians. Best used the paper to call for an end to racial discrimination for Black and Mi'kmaq peoples.

Mi'kmaq porcupine quillwork



Three Ways to Engage

Here are some ideas of how to use this Connect and Reflect guide to continue the learning with your own teams.

- Watch this 9-minute video with your team and invite their reflections.



[Explaining Anti-Racism: Ibram X. Kendi](#)

- Review pages 4-9 with your team and consider the following question: How does this knowledge change your perspective on the importance of Anti-Bias /Anti-Racist Education for young children?
- Explore the Additional Resources page to continue your learning journey and discover resources to support your programs.

Why does Black History Month Matter?

What is your comfort zone when talking about Equity, and Racism?





Racism is Real

Racism is Individual

Racism is Systemic

Racism is Racism

OVERT ANTI-BLACK RACISM

Socially Unacceptable

Racist jokes
Racial slurs
Using offensive language
Neo-Nazi groups
Hate crimes
Violence

COVERT ANTI-BLACK RACISM

Socially acceptable

Over-reporting of black families to child welfare
Child welfare or school to prison pipeline
Over-surveillance of black children
Eurocentric curriculum
Anti-immigration policies
Assuming good intentions are enough
Hiring, housing, health, justice discrimination and inequity
Cultural appropriation
"Don't blame me, I never owned slaves."
Over-policing, brutality
Denial of racism, Color blindness, Claiming reverse racism

Adapted from : James, C. E., & Turner, T. (2017). Towards race equity in education: The schooling of Black students in the Greater Toronto Area. Toronto: York University.

"selectivity based on ethnic differences is not present in the first days of life, but is learned within the first 3 months of life."

Kelly et al (2005)

"by the time they start kindergarten, children begin to show many of the same implicit racial attitudes that adults in our culture hold"

Kinzler, K. D. (2016)

With sufficient reasoning and positive information, negative implicit attitudes about people can be unlearned.

Mann T., Ferguson M. (2015)

"3 year olds hold adult-like prejudices believing that race determines whether or not one is honest, smart, or clean."

Hirschfeld, L. A. (2008)

"avoiding conversation about race only encourages prevalent stereotypes [to] remain unchanged"

Katz, Kofkin (1997)

**Anti-racism a
process of...
unlearning
co-learning
engaging
enacting**

Anti-Racism Key Concepts

**It is not enough to be not racist. We must
be actively anti-racist**

**It is not about who you are , it's about
what you do.**

**Racist ideas are taught and learned
early in life.**

**People have the capacity for change.
It starts with you.**

Ibram X. Kendi



6 Ways to be an Antiracist Educator



Share



6 WAYS TO BE AN ANTIRACIST EDUCATOR

WITH DENA SIMMONS

Watch on YouTube

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

There are many fantastic resources to support your learning about Black History Month and anti-racist pedagogy and practice. Here are a few inspired by our time together in our Community of Practice.

Activity and Material Resources

[Periodic Table of Canadian Black History -P4D](#)

[UN Rights of the Child - Child Friendly Versions](#)

Articles

[Embedding Rights of the Child Into ECE Curriculum](#)

[Centering Equity in Systemic Resilience Work with Young Children](#)

Books

[Writing School House Blues: Literacy, Equity, and Belonging in a Child's Early Schooling](#)

[Africentric Booklist for Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers](#)

Training and Practice Guides

[CECE Racism and Bias in Reporting to Child Welfare](#)

[CECE: Beliefs and Bias Practice Guide](#)

Videos

[6 Ways to be an Anti-Racist Educator](#)

[Explaining Anti-Racism: Ibram X. Kendi](#)

[Bias: Not Just a Policing Problem, It's Preschool Problem too](#)

Websites

[University of Alberta Free, Online Anti-racist Training](#)

[UBC Free Online Anti-racism Awareness Course](#)

[Guide for selecting anti-bias children's books/](#)

Local Resources

[Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition - Mental Health and Substance Use Supports](#)