



4-H School-Age Child Care
University of California Cooperative Extension

PARENT STYLES

Tips for Busy Parents

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

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Five to eight year olds begin to show greater curiosity about differences in cultural and physical characteristics of people. This is a time when children begin to understand that some comments can be hurtful to others. Children need to learn to respect the differences of others and to celebrate the diversity they see among themselves.

How Can Parents Help?

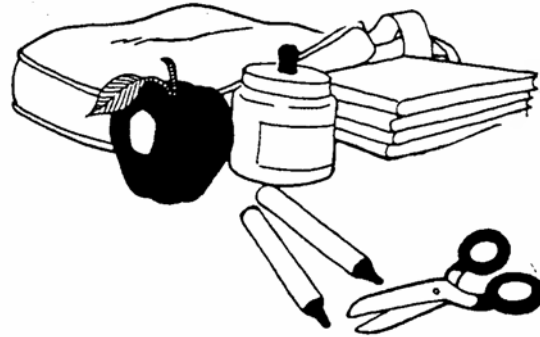
- ☆ **Help your children feel good about themselves.** Putting others down “hurts” others and does not help children feel better about themselves. Encourage only positive words.
- ☆ **Talk about “stereotypes”** - Ideas and assumptions made about people because of who they are or the group to which they belong are stereotypes. Sometimes people think that others who aren’t part of their group are not as good as they are - because they are different. This is called prejudice.
- ☆ **Talk about how unfair stereotypes are.** Ask children how they feel when someone calls them a name. Remind them that all people have feelings.
- ☆ **Encourage children to see their strengths.** Comment on Maya’s skill on the computer or Hector’s ability to write well.
- ☆ **Discuss any racial/hurtful incidents that happen to your child.** Do not make any child feel bad if the situation was not handled well. Let the child try to find solutions. Suggest a number of positive ways for the child to deal with these incidents.
- ☆ **Encourage children to celebrate diversity.** Enjoyment can be found in others ethnic celebrations, music, art, food, and dance. Give children a chance to learn more about these activities.
- ☆ **Act as a role model.** Help your child see that you are open to others regardless of race, religion, sex, age, or disability and encourage him to do the same. Help your child see that it takes personal strength to participate in the struggle to eliminate racism.

Resource: Derman-Sparks, Higa & Sparks. “Children, Race and Racism: How Race Awareness Develops”. *Interracial Books for Children, Bulletin*, Vol 11, No 3 & 4, 1980. Derman-Sparks, Louise. “How Well Are We Nurturing Racial and Ethnic Diversity,” *CSAC Review*, Vol 4, No 2, Winter, 1989 (sic 1990).

Collage...an American Child

What You'll Need:

- Children's coloring books
- Family or Parent Magazines
- Crayons/Felt Pens
- Paper
- Glue/Glue Stick
- Area on floor or table to draw/cut
- Scissors
- Large piece of paper



What to Do:

- ☆ Ask your child to lie on a large piece of paper while you trace his outline with a bright marker.
- ☆ Explain to your child that this outline represents an American child.
- ☆ Together look through magazines, newspapers or coloring books for pictures of children involved in various activities. Look for children from a variety of races and with various features. Cut out the pictures and glue onto your drawing of the American child.
- ☆ Talk to your child about what you've created together. Ask if your American child represents all children. Have you included children with disabilities, children from various ethnic groups and children of different sizes and shapes? If you haven't, together draw pictures to include those children.
- ☆ Discuss with your child what it means to be an American Child.