

# JEDI\* FAMILIES: RAISING RACE CONSCIOUS CHILDREN

Visit: [www.raceconscious.org](http://www.raceconscious.org)

Note: I am not affiliated with this group, but follow them on Facebook & used some of their materials to prepare this workshop

\*Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



# Introduction

- Assistant Professor, Sociology,  
University of Colorado-Denver
- Teach classes about Race & Ethnicity in  
the United States, Immigration, and  
Research Methods
- Also:
- Momma to Noah, Steele 1<sup>st</sup> grader
- Today we are **partners** in figuring out  
how to talk about race with our kids

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Please feel free to reach out if you have questions  
or want to talk more!

## 3 Takeaways from today

- Don't be color silent
- Strategies for talking about racism
- Introducing your child to racial diversity in their daily lives

# The Colorblind Framework → Naming Race

- Colorblind-ness: “ I don’t see color/race, I see people.”
  - This is rooted in good intentions, but is at odds with reality
  - Kids notice race and not talking about can create questions and confusion that kids feel they can’t discuss with the most trusted people in their lives
  - Skin color is a physical characteristic like hair color, eye color, etc.
- Talking about or observing race/skin color does not make you a racist or reinforces racism
  - When a judgement or assumption is assigned to this observation, that we get into the territory
    - Value or Devaluing tied to skin color

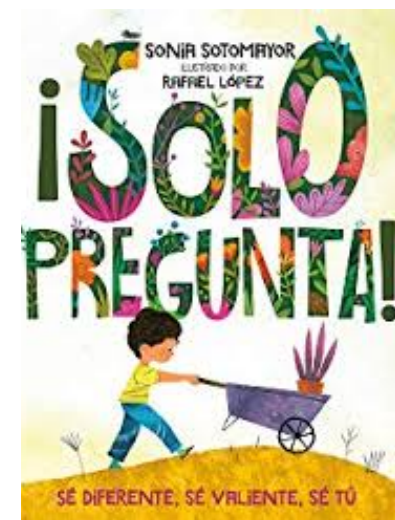
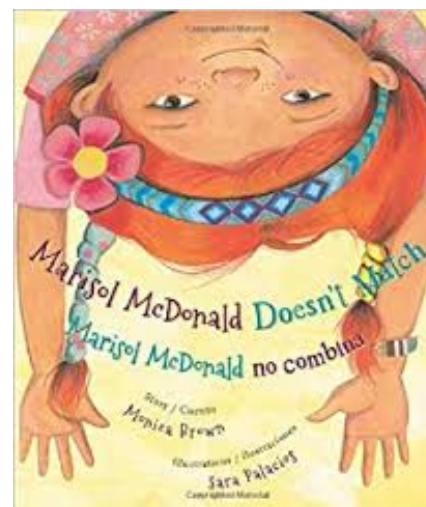
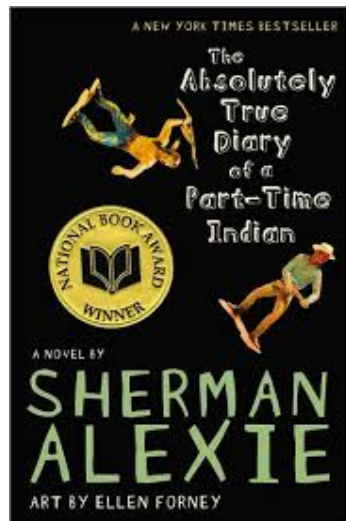
# Strategies for talking about racism

## Interpersonal Racism

- Acknowledge & take care of the feelings of the child who experienced this
- Talk about being a good friend, being kind, etc.
- But, also address & unpack the stereotype
- Ex: You can't be a princess/superhero/smart kid because you are X....

## Institutional Racism

- What happens when kids ask tough questions about history or current events?
- **Discuss**
- The Basic Facts (as you know them)\*
- Age Appropriate
  - Give reassurance or hope (if appropriate)
- Share the truth as you understand it
- \*If you don't know, you can explore together or learn more yourself and revisit when you feel comfortable



# Media Resources

- The Colours of Us:

<https://coloursofus.com/>

- Mater Mea:

<https://www.matermea.com/blog/35-black-kids-tv-shows-you-can-watch-right-now>

- Brightly:

<https://www.readbrightly.com/18-kids-books-diverse-main-characters/>

<https://www.readbrightly.com/topics/diversity/>

- After the presentation, I was informed that our wonderful school librarian Ms. Patty is also a great resource for diverse books!



# Resources for learning more about how to talk about race & racism with your children

- Raising Race Conscious Children: “resource to support adult who are trying to talk about race with young children”
  - FaceBook Group: Raising Race Conscious Children
  - Website: <http://www.raceconscious.org/>
- Teaching Tolerance: “Our mission to help teachers and schools to educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy.”
  - <https://www.tolerance.org/about>
- LifeKit: Parenting Podcast, Episode (02/24/2019), Talking Race with Young Children