

February 2022

Delivering on the Promise of Effective Early Childhood Education for Black Children: Eliminating Exclusionary Discipline and Concentrating on Inclusion <https://www.nbcdi.org/sites/default/files/resource-files/Delivering%20on%20the%20Promise%20of%20Effective%20Early%20Childhood%20Education.pdf>

The authors of this resource have very skillfully woven solid evidence together with specific practices that can be used to prepare early childhood professionals to support the full participation of Black children and their families. Recommendations are organized thematically (e.g., culturally-responsive practice, high expectations of children) with specific examples provided for implementation at child/family, classroom, program, and system levels. The interpretation of Maslow's hierarchy of needs vis-à-vis supporting Black children and families is just one of the thought-provoking features of this document.

In My Skin: Supporting Positive Racial Identity Development in Black Children

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/in-my-skin-supporting-positive-racial-identity-development-in-black-children>

This transcript of a conversation with Dr. Aisha White, one of the principals of [the P.R.I.D.E. Program](#) at the University of Pittsburgh, explores what is meant by "positive racial identity," discusses the challenges young Black children, in particular, face in developing a healthy racial identity, and offers practical, research-supported ideas for how adults in the lives of young Black children can support them on their paths to healthy growth and development.

An Applied Research Agenda on Black Children and Families to Advance Practices that Promote Their Well-Being <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/an-applied-research-agenda-on-black-children-and-families-to-advance-practices-and-policies-that-promote-their-well-being>

This February 2022 Child Trends brief explains the importance of developing an applied research agenda on Black children and families and offers a three-step process to carry out this vision. An applied research agenda (i.e., an agenda that establishes research priorities to solve real-world problems, inform decision making, and improve the lives of people across diverse settings) can fuel efforts to address the challenges that Black children and families face and advance their well-being.

Children's Books that Provide Mirrors and Windows for Young Black Children

● **Black Pioneers in STEM Book List** <https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/sites/stemie.fpg.unc.edu/files/Black%20Pioneers%20in%20STEM%20Book%20List%20-%20Updated%202022.pdf>

This list embraces and celebrates Black pioneers and innovators in STEM with engaging illustrations and photos to talk about with your young children.

● **19 Black Children's Books by Black Authors** <https://bookriot.com/black-childrens-books-by-black-authors/>

*This collection, which includes both current and older titles, ranges from *Lullaby for a Black Mother* by Langston Hughes to *Firebird* by Misty Copeland.*

● **Storybook Conversations: *Astro Girl*** <https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/storybook-conversations-astro-girl>

Astro Girl, written and illustrated by Ken Wilson-Max, shares the view of a young Black girl named Astrid who imagines what it would be like to go to space and be an astronaut. Read more about what challenges astronauts face, and imagine what going to space would be like!

A Long Gumdrop: Hair Love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNw8V_Fkw28

If you haven't seen this charming tribute to Black hair, please prepare to be delighted. And if you've seen it before, take 6:47 minutes to be delighted all over again.

Natural Resources is a free, monthly, one-way listserv. Each issue features readily available and free resources on a specific topic related to children from birth through Grade 3 and their families. Natural Resources is compiled and distributed by Camille Catlett. Past issues are archived at <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/natural-resources-monthly-newsletter> To subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact Camille Catlett at camille.catlett@unc.edu