

Celebrating Children's Identities to Advance Equity and Inclusion

<https://tmsc.createsend.com/t/ViewEmail/j/DC5D7446478324D22540EF23F30FEDED/C67FD2F38AC4859C/?tx=0&previewAll=1&print=1&source=PrintPreview&context=BE1559E32AC7F640D744A813E2B67A32>

Children and families with multiple identities may experience increased discrimination and bias. Biases such as racism and ableism (i.e., discrimination against people with disabilities) can lead to prejudice and unfair treatment of children and families who have these intersecting identities. They can also impact who has — and importantly, who does not have — equitable access to high-quality, inclusive early learning experiences. This set of resources offers ways to read about, look at, and try out practices that promote and affirm individual differences.

Using Stories to Nurture Identity <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2788-using-stories-to-nurture-identity>

This article offers tips and tools for using children's books to nurture positive self-identity.

Sense of Identity and Belonging: Teaching Practices for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/sense-identity-belonging-know>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/sense-identity-belonging-see>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/sense-identity-belonging-do>

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/sense-identity-belonging-improve>

These resources offer a variety of options for learning about and promoting a identity and belonging. The first URL connects to teaching practices for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Scroll down and you will get a number of illustrations and ideas related to what early childhood educators need to know. The second URL provides a number of videos that show what it looks like when environments and interactions support identity. The third URL has resources to explore what early childhood educators need to do to support identity and belonging, and the fourth URL links to illustrations of what early childhood educators can do to improve their efforts to support identity and belonging.

Positive Affirmations in STEM <https://stem4ec.ning.com/blog/positive-affirmations-in-stem?context=category-Insights>

In this blog from the STEMIE project, professor and mother Marye Vance talks how she builds identity for her son, Winston. Marye also offers ideas for how faculty and educators can select and use resources that affirm identity.

Encouraging Positive Racial Identity in Young Children

<https://tryingtogether.org/dap/encouraging-positive-racial-identity-in-young-children/>

Research shows that talking to children about race and engaging in related activities when children are young improves academic performance, racial pride, and other outcomes. It is never too early to engage in direct and indirect communication about race and ethnicity. This site has multiple examples of how to do that.

Both Not Half: How Language Shapes Identity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SP0bAQ8J6C0&feature=youtu.be>

*This thought-provoking TED Talk explores the ways in which language and culture weave their threads into the fabric of who we are as individuals. **Please, please, please** take the time to listen to Jassa Ahluwalia and to internalize his messages so you may better support each child's identity.*

A Gumdrop: The Gift

<https://www.coxcampus.org/the-gift/>

This brief video uses the words and feelings of children to express the importance of incorporating the "gift" of home language, culture, and identity in learning. Multiple examples of how educators can do that are illustrated.

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. **Highlighted resources are available in English and Spanish.** 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