

Dear Syre Families,

The killing of George Floyd and the events that have followed have deeply impacted us and this country, and have highlighted the need for change due to the pattern of police brutality and systemic racism within our criminal justice system. As the School Counselors at Syre, we are committed to creating an anti-racist community within our Syre community and the greater community at large. It is our responsibility as white educators to work towards disrupting systems that perpetuate racism through teaching and educating students and adults alike. We are dedicated to listening and continually learning about our own privilege and biases. It is difficult and important work that we invite you to be a part of.

There are numerous resource lists that have been sent out through our Superintendent and Principal Carroll. If you would like additional resources or need help figuring out a starting point, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Standing alongside all our students and families`,
Heather Shickich and Kim Kauffman

Here are some key points to remember when talking about race and racism with your child:

- Allow openness and honesty
- Admit that you do not know it all and encourage questions and further discussions- this won't be a one stop conversation, it will be an ever evolving discussion as your child grows and understands more about the complex world we live in. Add books, shows, and movies with people of color as the main character to encourage ongoing conversations.
- Avoid "everyone is equal" type platitudes. They avoid the deeper issues at play and may diminish the importance of these conversations. They are also simply not true in our current society.
- Your children are always watching you so be sure you model and show your children how to be anti-racist through your interactions, relationships, and ways you talk about people of different races.
- It is important to leave our children after these difficult conversations with a sense of empowerment to make change and actions they can take. We do not want to leave them worried or hopeless. Ideas could include:
 - Write letters
 - Make signs of support
 - Learn/practice what they could say to stand up for someone they see being discriminated against

Are your kids too young to talk about race?

Nope. Silence about race can reinforce racism by letting children draw their own conclusions.



Additional Resources:

- ["Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup"](#)
- [Interactive Bookcase for Read-alouds](#)
- [Join us and bring your family to watch:](#)
 - [The 60-minute special "Coming Together: Standing Up to Racism. A CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall for Kids and Families" will air on Saturday, June 6, at 10 a.m. ET.](#)

Some highlights from "[100 RACE-CONSCIOUS THINGS YOU CAN SAY TO YOUR CHILD TO ADVANCE RACIAL JUSTICE](#)" article:

- 5) Black Lives Matter and White privilege- "...even though people who are Black aren't slaves anymore, the history of slavery means that, today, people who are Black still are discriminated against. That means that they aren't treated fairly. But people who are White, like us, don't experience this discrimination. And that's really unfair. So now there is a movement called "Black Lives Matter" where people are standing up and saying, 'We want justice! Black people need to be treated fairly.'
- 6) Police violence- "Eric Garner was a father and grandfather who was hurt and killed by the police. He was one of too many Black men that the police have hurt and killed. His last words were 'I can't breathe.' ...By saying 'I can't breathe,' we are saying that it was wrong that Eric Garner was hurt and we are standing up for justice for him and his family. We are telling the police it is not OK to hurt people, and we will keep working together until everyone, especially people of color, are treated fairly, with respect and dignity."