

Specific Tools for Families:

- Encourage families to join a support group of foster/adoptive families (in person and on line), including on Facebook
- Read blogs by transracial adoptees including the tough to read ones ("Transracial Eyes")
- Read books by Transracial Adoptees (Rhonda Roorda)
- Read Magazines (in the house and on line) of the race/ethnicity of your child (Ebony, The Root, Colorlines, etc.)
- Review your children's books and ask do they have families of different types of families, including adoptive? Do they have faces of kids that look like your child's face
- Look into transracial foster/adoptive families camps, culture camps, and adoption camps
- Support the child to have friends of the same race as the child – both as the parents and the child
- If you can't move to a more diverse community; then travel to more diverse communities for soccer, dance , etc...
- Explore a multitude of cultures via festivals, museums, restaurants, travel and note the difference of visiting
- Visit diverse places of worship; churches of various denominations, mosques, and synagogues, temples

Resources

- Southern Poverty Law Center (data, responding to racism) www.splcenter.org
- Race Forward-The Center For Racial Justice Innovation www.raceforward.org
- Colorlines (news, events impacting communities of color) www.colorlines.com
- Rhonda Roorda-(Author, Transracial Adoptee, Speaker) www.rhondamroorda.com
- Donaldson Adoption Institute www.adoptioninstitute.org
- Pact-Adoption Alliance www.pactadopt.org/resources/resource-library.html
- Bridge Communications (Michelle Hughes: Adoption Attorney, Adoptive Mom, Trainer) www.bridgecommunications.org
- Integrity Clinical Consulting & Training (Krista Woods: Transracial Adoptee, Trainer, Clinical Therapist) www.integrityclinicalconsulting.com
- Kingsman Consulting (Katy Perkins: Adoptee, Trainer, social worker) www.kingsmanconsulting.com

Summary

- Acknowledge racism and other 'isms' are real
- Being color-blind or a racial/cultural minimizer is harmful
- Take time to self-reflect. What do you need to change in your life in support of your child?
- Part of your personal inventory is realizing your (and others) White privilege
- Use age-appropriate language to discuss "isms" and how you can and will take a stand
- Be honest about negative information about POCs in the media (debunk stereotypes)

Summary (con't)

- Teaching about racial navigation and safety is similar to teaching how to cross dangerous streets or about 'stranger danger'
- Take necessary steps to support your child if they are the target of hate/'isms'
- Emotionally well-being and support is particularly important for kids from backgrounds of trauma
- Use helpful/supportive language with children while avoiding unhelpful language
- Understand *intent vs. impact* in interactions as a child/person of color
- Surround yourselves and your children with positive role models of color and racial mirrors.
- Continue to educate yourselves; as this is a lifelong process

Questions???



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Thank you for your participation!!!
I hope you will join me again for another in-person workshop!

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