

Parent Resource

Teaching Kids about Diversity and Acceptance Jan.13, 2021

Source: <https://www.kidsacademy.mobi/storytime/teaching-kids-about-diversity/>

As babies are born into this world, it's easy to forget that one day very soon, they'll join the larger social community around us. Even as toddlers begin preschool, kids are out in the world and interacting with many different people. For some of us, the communities in which we live are rather consistent while others live in more diverse areas, with a mixture of colors and cultures. Regardless of the area of the country we're raised, it's important to instill a sense of acceptance and tolerance within our children. Let's take an in-depth look at the importance of teaching kids about diversity before exploring ways to address it with young children.

We often think of children to be innocent, and indeed they are, as kids aren't born judging others by the color of their skin. While it's true that children are colorblind to race, it's only inevitable that they will one day witness or experience racial prejudice in some form. The early elementary years might seem awfully early to introduce heavy topics like racism or prejudice, but it's easier for little learners to understand when they learn that America wasn't always as they know it now.



Why Should Kids Learn About Equal Rights?

After kids leave toddlerhood behind, it's tempting to think that kids can be kept innocent and protected for as long as possible. However, once kids learn language well enough to communicate back and forth with others, they begin interacting with many people outside their immediate family and learn more about the wider world around them.

Learning about civil rights is crucial because it teaches kids how they can expect to be treated by others, as well as how they themselves should treat people. Teaching these sensitive topics at home starting from an early age creates a safe space to discuss and explore ideas, and for young people to form early pro-social opinions and values.

Of course, the primary purpose of teaching and learning about history is to ensure that the more negative aspects of our past do not recur in the future. This is why it's important to teach young learners the basics surrounding America's past, and the civil rights movement. When kids learn the issues that Americans faced when their grandparents were young, kids can more easily grasp why it's important to treat other humans equally, no matter the color of their skin or ethnic background.

In the end, it's all about teaching kids to be kind and accept others, even those who are different from them. This helps kids to learn empathy and could motivate them to take action and inspire others within their own schools or communities. As a parent, you can be confident that you are doing your best to raise socially tolerant and empathetic individuals that will change society for the better.