

ALASKA CHILDREN'S TRUST STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH BLACK LIVES MATTER

Every child deserves to grow up healthy, safe, and with opportunities to thrive. As an organization dedicated to ensuring children grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing environments, we know this vision is elusive while skin color still determines every aspect of how our children move through this world.

We stand firmly with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the fight against racism and for justice. The senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless other Black lives are evidence that we have a lot of work to do as a country, and internally as an organization.

At Alaska Children's Trust, we recognize racism is not only an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), but a dire public health issue that causes toxic stress and intergenerational trauma. Racism is woven into our systems of child welfare, educational achievement, health outcomes, economic well-being, and public safety. We cannot move forward with our goal of preventing child abuse and neglect if we do not address equity and systemic racism in the fabric of these systems.

As an organization, we recognize the privilege that we hold, hence why we cannot stay silent. It is our responsibility to use this privilege to uplift the stories and experiences of Black, Indigenous and People of Color in Alaska, leverage partnerships with individuals, community leaders, and organizations who are already doing this work, and commit resources and develop tools to advance anti-racist values in the work we do.

Many white parents avoid talking about race, particularly with their kids. They might believe that leading by example, with kindness and compassion, is enough. It is not enough. Children and young people deserve to unpack and understand their privilege in society. On the other hand, parents of color are forced to have the conversation with their children, over and over and over. Conversations about racism are vital for all families. Without conversation, our kids see silence and are themselves ill equipped to confront racism. Silence is complicity.

Here are several resources for parents to have productive conversations about dismantling racism and changing the status quo.

General Links

- [Children's books to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance](#)

- [Today's Parent](#)
- [Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk about Race](#)
- [Strategies for Talking about Race with Young Children](#)
- [Age-by-Age Guide to talk about Racism](#)
- [5 Tips For Talking With Children and Teenagers About Hate Incidents](#)

Children/Young Adult Anti-Bias Books

- [Social Activism Diverse Reading List](#)
- [Social Justice Books](#)
- [Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books](#)
- [Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners](#)
- [Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You](#)

Listen

- [Code Switch \(NPR\)](#)
- ["More Beautiful"](#) with Imani Perry. The scholar speaks powerfully about her experience raising black sons in America.
- ["Let's Talk About Whiteness"](#) with Eula Biss. The writer opens up an important conversation about whiteness, complacency, guilt, and privilege.

Read

- [How To Be An Antiracist](#) by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
- [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson
- [The Fire Next Time](#) by James Baldwin
- [Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) by Michelle Alexander
- [The Warmth of Other Suns](#) by Isabel Wilkerson
- [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo, PhD
- [My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies](#) by Reesma Menakem

Organizations to follow on social media:

- The Conscious Kid: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Equal Justice Initiative (EJI): [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Our team at the Alaska Children's Trust stands in solidarity with you. Let's keep fighting together to ensure every one of our young people grows up safe, resilient, powerful, and heard.

In Solidarity,

ACT Board of Directors & Staff