



## **Intentional Inclusivity: Tips for Raising Culturally Receptive Children**

- **Start early.**
  - Let your child know that it's perfectly okay to notice cultural differences and skin color. Start talking about what differences mean and don't mean.
- **Encourage your child.**
  - Encourage your child to ask questions, share observations and experiences, and be respectfully curious about race.
  - Expose your child to different cultural opportunities (i.e. films, books, or events) and discuss the experience afterwards.
  - You don't have to be an expert on other ethnicities to talk with your child. Be honest about what you don't know and work with your child to find accurate information.
- **Be mindful.**
  - What kids hear from us is less important than what they see us do.
  - You are a role model to your child. What you say is important, but what you do (the diversity of your friendship circle, for example) is likely to have a bigger impact.
  - If you're able, consider enrolling your child in after-school or weekend activities such as sports leagues that are diverse.
  - Choose books and toys that include people of different races and ethnicities. Visit museums with exhibits about a range of cultures and religions.
- **Know and love who you are.**
  - Talk about the histories and experiences of the ethnic and cultural groups your family identifies with. Talk about their contributions and acknowledge the less flattering parts of those histories as well.
  - Tell stories about the challenges your family/relatives/ancestors have faced and overcome.
- **Develop cultural literacy.**
  - Study and talk about the histories and experiences of groups we call African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and whites, among others.
  - Be sure your child understands that every racial and ethnic group includes people who believe different things and behave in different ways. There is as much diversity within racial groups as across them.