

# TALKING ABOUT DIVERSITY WITH YOUR CHILD



*Too Small to Fail* and the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) are proud to share information and resources to help families talk, read, and sing together to celebrate diversity.

We live in a world filled with rich traditions, cultures, and routines, and it's never too early to start helping your child appreciate diversity. By modeling respect and care for others in our communities, we can help children embrace differences while recognizing the many things we all have in common.

Tobeka G. Green, President and CEO of the National Black Child Development Institute, shares tips on how families can celebrate diversity all year long by engaging children in meaningful conversations during everyday moments.

## WHEN SHOULD I BEGIN TALKING WITH MY CHILD ABOUT DIVERSITY?

It is never too early to talk with your child about diversity and what makes people unique. Research shows that babies as young as six months old notice differences in the way people look and behave. As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child appreciate and understand diversity!

## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT WHAT MAKES HIM OR HER SPECIAL.

When children learn to love what makes them unique, it builds self-esteem. Help your little one take pride in her identity by talking about activities she enjoys or qualities she is proud of. You can also create a song together about something that makes her unique! For example, you might sing: "I love my hair, I love the way it bounces in the air!"

## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT WHAT MAKES YOUR FAMILY UNIQUE.

When children know their family's history, it can build a sense of belonging. Talk with your child about your family's history by telling stories about his family and show pictures or videos if you can. Share stories about positive moments in your family or community's history.

## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT HOW OTHER PEOPLE ARE UNIQUE.

Your child may notice differences in others, which is also a great opportunity to talk about what we have in common: we all eat food, we take baths, and we love to play. There are also many things that make us unique: we may look different, eat different foods, and speak different languages, which makes all of us special! Ask your child what makes her friends and family members unique.

## HOW CAN I USE BOOKS TO HELP MY CHILD LEARN ABOUT DIVERSITY?

Reading helps your child discover new things about his history and the world around him. Reading books featuring diverse characters with your child not only promotes his sense of identity, it also helps him see the lives of children from backgrounds different from his own!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL BLACK CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE AND ITS PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NBCDI.ORG](http://WWW.NBCDI.ORG).



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