LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE IN STORYTIMES
Hello!

I am Jessica Anne Bratt
All families should be celebrated and affirmed at storytimes.
You can find me #modelinginclusion @whimsylibrarian
WHO AM I?

- Descendents of Slaves
- Great Migration & first generation educators
- Southside Chicago

“School is only going to teach you a part of your history. We spend the summer learning about the rest of your history, because I want you to be able to know who you are. They are not going to teach you that.”

-Thadis Liddell
WHY IS TALKING ABOUT RACE SO IMPORTANT?
LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE DISCLAIMERS

1. Caretaking vs Caregiving
2. Lean into the discomfort
3. Oppression is real
4. Support each other
1. CULTURAL IDENTITY

Knowing that ethnic & racial identity are important aspects to individuals.
"The problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story."

-Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
2. History

Understanding the psychological effects of segregation
DOLL TEST: UNCONSCIOUS BIAS
"Parents try to spare their children this bitter knowledge as long as possible. Less sensitive parents (those maimed by their own bitterness) drive it into their child from infancy on."

-James Weldon Johnson
3. **INCLUSIVITY**

Foster a storytime environment that models inclusion.
### Why It's Important to Model Race Talks in Storytime

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<tr>
<th>Power of Librarianship</th>
<th>Social Emotional Literacy</th>
<th>Challenge Stereotypes</th>
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<td>Give credible information backed up by evidence. #science</td>
<td>Build empathy and understanding of cultural differences.</td>
<td>We are more than civil rights activists. Entertainers. Musicians.</td>
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This should not be treated as a checklist or good deed of the day. This should be like any ECRR tip.
SELF-ASSESSMENT TIME

★ List your top ten storytime books.

★ What are your go-to storytime resources?

★ If you do picture walks, do you include race-related observations? (i.e. Look at her curly hair?)
EXAMPLE PARENT TIPS

While reading to your child, it is okay to point out racial differences.

“Is that skin darker or lighter than your own?”

Did you know that we can be born with different skin colors? Well, this skin tone is called ______.

Respect your child’s curiosity of the world around them by answering their hard and sometimes embarrassing observations.

“Let me think about that for a while,” or try “That is a good question---and I do not know.” are great starting responses.
Great Books for Modeling Race Talks

**Baby & Me**
You can use this book to point out the similarities that make us human. The important part is to not ignore the skin tone.

**Toddler Time**
Inside are stunning photographs that you can use to highlight the African-American experience whether in age or skin tone.

**Pre-School Time**
Use to discuss the shameful “unfair” laws, which limited the African-American workers to low wage and lower skilled jobs at certain bread factories.
STEPS TO SUCCESS IN TALKING ABOUT RACE

SINCERITY

INTENTIONALITY

ADVOCACY
THE KEY TO TRAINING STAFF IS REPETITION

- Talk it all out
- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Assign next steps
HAVING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS WITH CARETAKERS
Great Videos & Talks on Race

CNN - Doll Test

3 Ways to Speak

Danger of Single Story

Color Blind or Color Brave?

How to Raise A Black Son

How to Overcome Bias
Special thanks to all the people who definitely took the time to provide research & resources for further digging on talking about race to kids.

- Talking to Kids About Race
- NutureShock
- Everyday Diversity
- Talking w/Kids About Race
- Race Conscious Kids
THANKS!

Any questions?
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