CULTURALLY RELEVANT & RESPONSIVE

PEDAGOGY & CURRICULUM

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"...a sense of awareness of Blackness... through an acceptance of difference, which is contrary to colour-evasive tropes bolstered in mainstream education (Brady, 2022, p.170).

CULTURALLY RELEVANT

PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE

The early years are the "genesis"(2022) of the processes that construct the understanding that children develop in the continuous journey racial socialization. Ideas about race, value and belonging are informed through our social contexts. A child's journey to self begins in the early years.

PROBLEMS

The educational environment is lacking in the development of teaching practices that would equip staff with "...socially responsive" (Berman et al., 2017 as cited in Hall & Berman, 2022) knowledge and training.
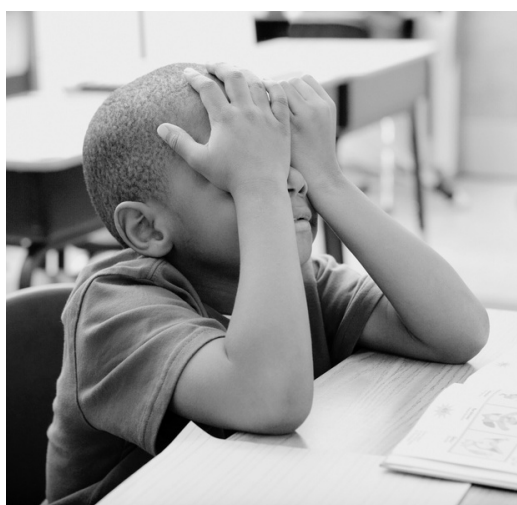
IDEAS

INCLUDE PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE

FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILDREN IN IT

INTEGRATE FAMILIAL KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE IN CURRICULUM PLANNING

SOLUTIONS

..."educators need to know the families of the children in their care and explore what is important for them regarding racial socialisation" (Sanders & Molgaard, 2019 as cited in Hall & Berman, 2022)

Olympian Ibtihaj Muhammad Shares The Story of Her ...

BOOKTUBE JR.

Watch on YouTube
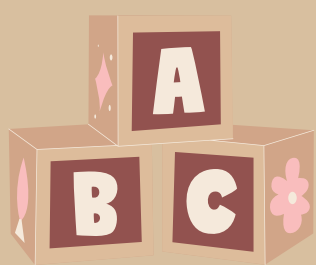
CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE

Let us strive in embracing and celebrating the natural beauty of Black girls hair!!

PROBLEMS

Black girls' hair is seen as "as a marker of second-class citizenship and as an indicator of defilement"(Essien et al., 2021).

Negative comments are made by educators and other children towards Black hair

Black girls often feel pressured to follow Eurocentric standards of beauty

The discriminatory views on Black girls hair connects with the political hierarchies during slavery (Essien et al., 2021)

IDEAS

Validate the beauty of Black Hair, and make children feel good in embracing their curls and natural hair

Build an environment where Black children feel a sense of belonging and seeing themselves represented in their classrooms
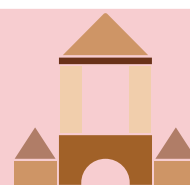
SOLUTIONS

Early Childhood Educators with little knowledge on Black hair, should educate themselves on different hair textures to avoid common misconceptions

Validate the beauty of Black Hair, and make children feel good in embracing their curls and natural hair

Address stereotypes and handle situations properly when negative comments are made towards Black girls hair

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE

"The story is the practice of Black life" (Nxumalo & Pacini-Ketchabaw, 2023 p.191)

PROBLEMS

Traditional multicultural teaching does not fully tackle discrimination against Black people in Canadian early childhood education.

"Colour-blind" approach

- the idea or practice of not acknowledging and/or claiming to not recognize racial differences under the guise of treating everyone equally
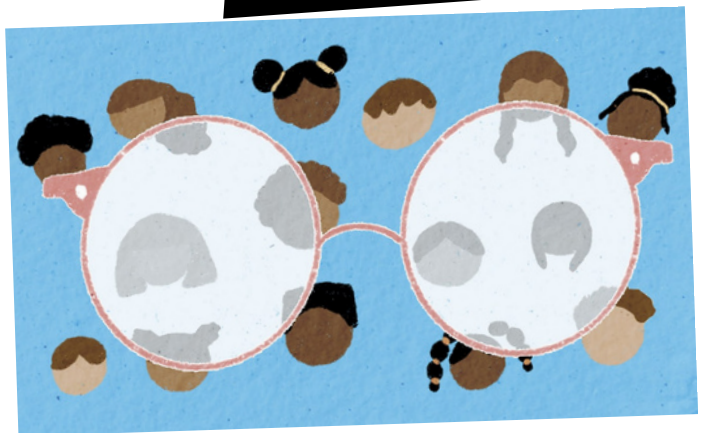
IDEAS

Diversify the narratives and perspectives shared in the classroom

Create a safe space for children to share their culture, experiences and ideas regarding race

Utilize the community to introduce, highlight and understand Black ecologies

SOLUTIONS

Pedagogical practices that integrate counterstories focusing on Black talent, experiences and accomplishments and which challenge discrimination and celebrate the vibrancy within Black communities.

The "Cook-out"

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE STORYTELLING

REVOLUTIONARY LOVE APPROACH

"Revolutionary Love" involves educators going beyond superficial expressions of love in early childhood classrooms.

According to Boutte & Bryan (2021), teachers who are described in revolutionary love, reject what they term as "fake love" dominating early childhood education.

Revolutionary love entails seeing Black children as their own, treating them with genuine care, and becoming co-conspirators in dismantling anti-Black violence. (Boutte & Bryan, 2021).

Adopt culturally relevant practices.

Centers on African diaspora literacy,

Educators are urged to engage in revolutionary teaching with a moral obligation to act on behalf of all children, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive, healing environments.

Providing young learners with connections to rich cultural traditions often missing from standard curricula.

(Boutte & Bryan, 2021).
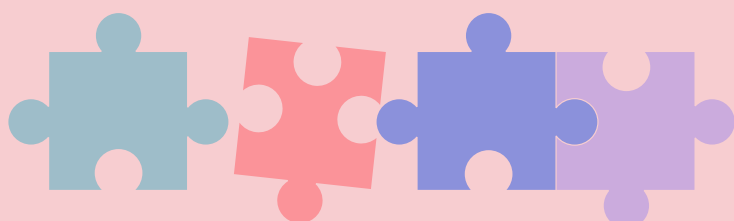
ROLE OF PARENTS AND EDUCATORS IN CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

Parents, besides educators, have a critical role in fostering racial and ethnic identity development among Black adolescents.

In culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy and curriculum, educators should recognize the importance of aligning classroom practices with their students' cultural backgrounds and experiences.

Understanding the significance of racial/ethnic identity in adolescent development, educators can integrate diverse perspectives, histories, and cultural elements into the curriculum.

Create learning environments that recognize Black students' unique identities and validate their experiences.

Culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy fosters an inclusive space where students feel seen and valued, promoting a positive sense of identity.

Educators can draw on Peck et al.'s (2014) research in developmental psychology, which explores racial/ethnic socialization in African American families and its influence on adolescent development. This study combines qualitative and quantitative methods to examine how parental messages regarding race and ethnicity affect adolescent identity. By understanding this dynamic, educators can enhance teaching practices to create a more culturally inclusive educational experience for all students.

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