



# FOSTER TALK

#SUPPORTINGTHOSEWHOCARE

EMPOWERING FOSTER CARERS TO  
**DISCUSS RACE INEQUALITIES**



## #BLACKLIVESMATTER

In 2013, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — created the movement Black Lives Matter in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s murderer, George Zimmerman. 17-year old African-American Trayvon Martin was killed by a member of neighbourhood watch, George Zimmerman, after he deemed to have looked ‘suspicious’. The police had told Zimmerman not to pursue, however he failed to listen and fatally shot Trayvon. Zimmerman was later acquitted for the crime, even though they was an outcry from the community and across American and it is believe there was racial bias during the trial.

As a mission, it strives ‘to eradicate white supremacy’ intervene in violence inflicted against Black communities, creating space for Black imagination and innovation to improve lives. This movement speaks out against police brutality and vigilantism targeting at black communities. It acknowledges that there have been countless killing of black men, women and children and in many of these cases justice was not served due to institutional racism or racial bias. Black Lives Matter is an Anti – Racist movement and a social movement that is fighting for social justice for black people. Today Black Lives Matters, has been used as a Twitter hashtag a slogan and visual representation for change, a social movement and the topic of many debates in the media and many peoples household.

## WHY BLM? HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THIS TO CHILDREN?

When we are discussing **Black Lives Matter** with children, we want them to understand that this slogan is not suggesting that all lives don’t matter, but at the moment there are some problems that the black community are facing and therefore this needs some attention so things can change for the better. Analogies that can be used...

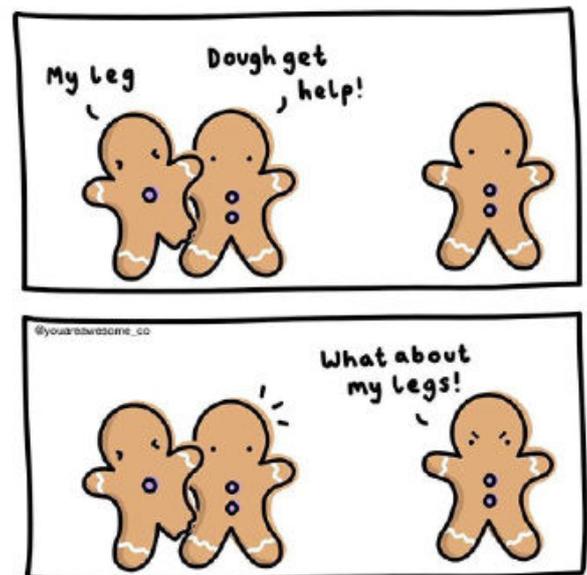


## FOR UNDER 10S GINGER BREAD PERSON

This illustration shows the ginger bread person with a broken leg. He is advised to get help.

However, the other ginger bread person is asking what about my leg, however from the image we can see that this leg is perfectly intact so help is not necessary.

*In other words your leg matters, but is not broken.*



## FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL HOUSE ON FIRE

This cartoon script, explains the concept of Black Lives matter, using the analogy of a fire.

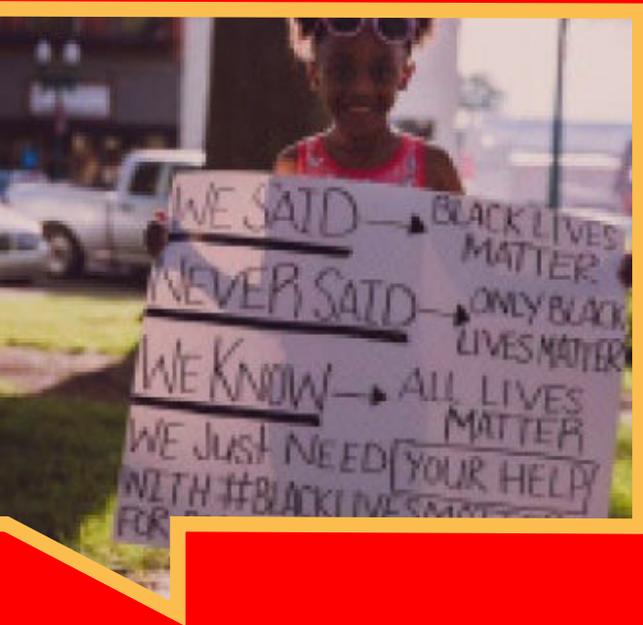
It highlights that it is accepted that 'every house matters', however due to the urgency of the house burning down, it is important that this problem gets addressed as soon as possible.

*In other words, your house matters but it isn't burning down.*

## FOR TEENS TWITTER COMMENTS

These twitter users have given example of needed support for a specific health problem and explain why this problem needs to be address above all other at that time. In other words, your ailments/health does matter however we are addressing a specific problem currently. Therefore a trending statement was made on social media that explains this further.





Starting the conversation about racism as early as 5 years old can make all the difference in how kids view the world and others. It is important that we do not shelter children from the harsh reality of racism and bias however we must be appropriate and use explain that they will be able to understand.



These three example are familiar events that younger children would be familiar with, and will assist them to understand and consider how others may feel when they are unjustly treated differently.





# DON'T PRETEND PRIVILEGE DOESN'T EXIST

It's important for white parents to teach their children about the advantages they possess simply for being born a white person. It's a critical step in raising anti-racist children. There is nothing wrong with privilege, however it is how you choose to use/ignore it that is the point of contention.

“White privilege is not to say that a white person will not have struggles or adversity, but instead, it should be viewed as an inherent advantage that the person has without doing anything other than having white skin,” says Lucinda D. Norman Johnson, a teacher at the Penn-Griffin School For the Arts in High Point, North Carolina. *“White privilege is afforded to all white people of all socioeconomic status, gender, geographical location, age, or acknowledgment.”*

Below are 2 links to YouTube video's that explain privilege. Both examples highlight that based on your position in life, which are predisposed, you can have an advantage other others.



This movement is a challenge for all people to come together to use whatever advantage you have to benefit each other. Only then can we build a society based on equality and justice.



## DON'T PRETEND COLOUR DOESN'T EXIST

A 2016 study called 'Children's Racial Categorization in Context' explains that children can begin to differentiate race by as early as 3 months old and can classify others by race between 6 and 8 years old. If parents do not teach children about race, then you are teaching the child not to know the identity of the other person. This means that you are not recognising their history or truly acknowledging them as a person and ignoring racism.

Answer questions about race honestly and factually. The inquisitiveness children exhibit is their way of seeking to understand and learn. Often, what parents think they are doing in this situation, avoiding embarrassment and ridicule, can give the message to children that race is something to view negatively, something to fear, or something to ignore.



Adam Grant [@AdamMGrant](#) · Jul 28, 2019

Don't pretend to be color-blind. It intensifies racial bias: "If you can't see race, you can't see racism."

Don't ignore racial differences. Discuss them openly.

If your child makes a statement such as..

***"That lady's skin is brown, and yours is white,"*** agree with them and ask them a question such as, ***"What do you think about that?"*** or ***"What made you say that?"***

Respond with factual information, while noting differences, and similarities; this prevents differences from leading to division. Listen without judgment so that they are open with you, but correct inaccurate information and stereotypes if your child makes a negative remark about someone with different hair texture, you can say...

***'Her hair isn't ugly, sweetie. Her hair is curly, just like your hair is curly, but her curls look different than yours but it is still pretty. Just because it is different doesn't make it bad.'***



# UK HISTORY & RACE RELATIONS

## ARRIVAL OF SS EMPIRE WINDRUSH

The arrival of the cruise ship Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks on the morning of 22 June, 1948 when black people were invited to support Britain to rebuild the UK after World War 2.

## BRIXTON RIOTS

In 1981, violence flared up in urban centres across England as young blacks vented their anger at society and, in particular, their treatment by police. Brixton, in South London, was the first flashpoint.

## DEATH OF STEVEN LAWRENCE 'MACPHERSON REPORT'

In 1993 Steven Lawrence was murdered for the colour of his skin. The Macpherson report blamed police racism and incompetence for scuppering any chance of justice. Crucially, he also identified the police as “institutionally racist.”

## GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

The Inquiry is still going on, 3 years after the fire and there are still hundreds of tower blocks with flammable cladding despite the government stating it would all be removed. In June 2017, 72 people died in Grenfell Tower in West London. Many of the people living in Grenfell Tower were from BAME backgrounds. There was an inquiry into the fire, the deaths and injuries of all the people and there were suggestions around institutional racism, as many of the people living in Grenfell Tower were from BAME backgrounds.

# FAMILY FRIENDLY RESOURCES

## UNDER 10S

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### BOOKS

- Grace Byers: I am enough (Age 3-8)
- Ann Hazzard: Something Happened in Our Town (age 4-8)
- Matthew Cherry: Hair Love
- Vashti Harrison: Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History (Age 7-10)
- Fran Manushkin Happy in our Skin (Age 2+)

### FILMS

- Hidden Figures (PG)
- Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
- The Painting (U)
- The Princess and the Frog (PG)

## SECONDARY SCHOOL & TEENS

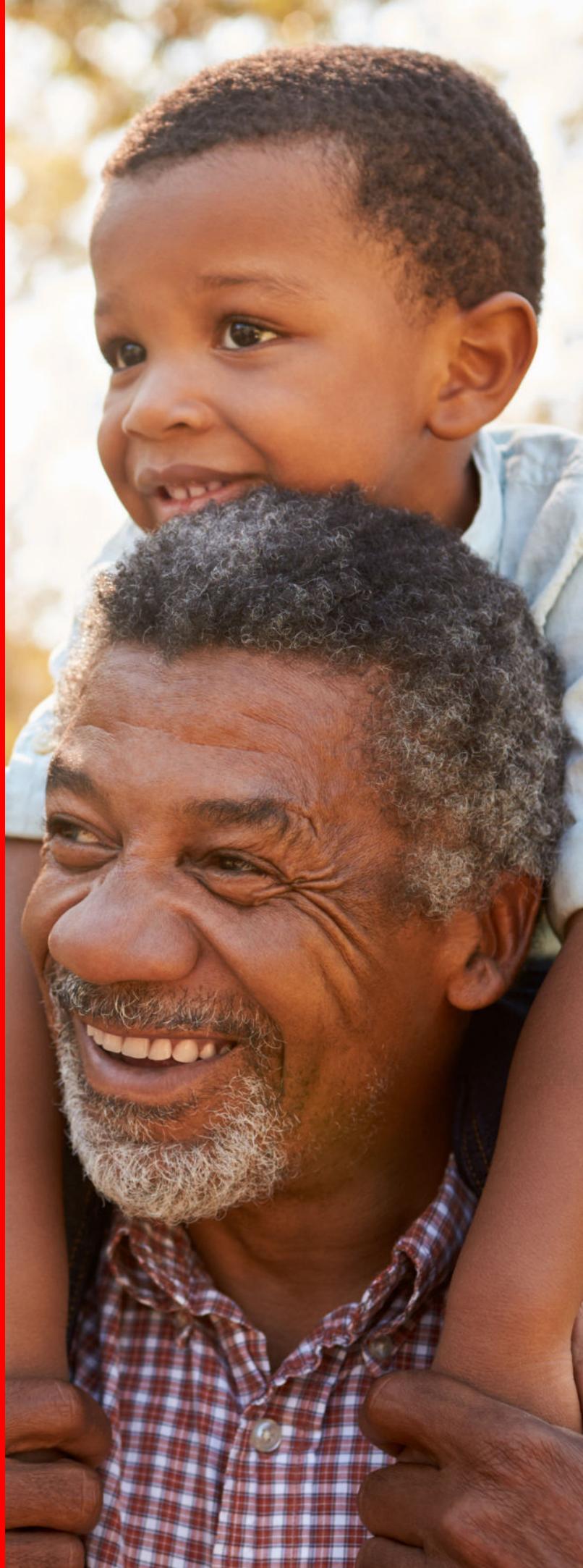
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### BOOKS

- Malorie Blackman: Noughts and Crosses series (age 11-16)
- Maya Angelou: I know why the caged birds sing (14+)
- Angie Thomas: The Hate You Give (14+)
- Lisa Heathfield: I am not a number (14+)

### FILMS

- The Hate You Give (12)
- The Help (12A)
- American History X (15)
- 12 Years a Slave 15)
- Self-Made (Inspired by the life of Madam C.J. Walker) (Netflix series)



## ADULTS

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### BOOKS

- Reni Eddo-Lodge: *Why I'm no longer talking to White people about race*
- Banaji, M.R. and Greenwald, A.G., 2016. *Blindspot: Hidden biases of good people.*
- Akala Natives: Race and Class in the *Ruins of Empire*

### FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

- Sitting in Limbo – BBC I player
- The Unwanted: The Secret Windrush Files- BBC I player
- 13th – Netflix
- American Son- Netflix





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