

How Do Transracial Adoptees Develop a Racial Identity?

Outline

- How do children in the US come to understand race at different ages and developmental stages?
- How early do children develop a racial bias? How early do children associate certain characteristics with race and show a preference towards a person of a certain race?
- How does transracial adoption, fostering, or kinship care impact a child's understanding of race?
- How does transracial or transcultural adoption, fostering, or kinship care impact children? "Transracial or transcultural adoption or fostering or kinship care can impact children in a number of ways, including how they develop a racial identity and learn to handle racism."
 - Racial identity formation: How does being adopted transracially impact the adoptee's racial identity formation?
 - Coping with racism
- In your research and in your experience, do you see a difference in the experience of race perceived by both transracial adoptees or adoptive or foster parents depending on the race of the child? Asian, Latinx, Black, Bi-racial?
- Why is taking the colorblind approach to parenting not helpful? Adoptees or foster youth often do not report experiences of racism to their white parents because they believe that their parents will be unresponsive or will discount the incident. Or because they want to protect their parent or they want to "blend in" to the family.
- "It's About More Than Hair"
- Transracial parenting requires the family to be fluent in "race talk" – socialization is not a conversation; it is a daily, incremental, and developmental family process.
- As our kids age, what is it like for our tweens, teens, and young adults to have parents of a different race?
- How does transracial adoption or fostering impact siblings in the family who are the same race as the parents?
- How does transracial adoption or fostering affect extended family members, such as grandparents and aunts and uncles?
- Practical tips for parents raising a child of a different race or ethnicity.

Additional Resources:

- [Diverse Book Finder](#)
- [The Brown Bookshelf – highlights Black voices writing for young readers.](#)
- [The Conscious Kid](#)
- [Multiracial Cultural Attunement](#) by Gina Miranda Samuels and Kelly Faye Jackson, 2019
- [Tips for parenting your transracially adopted child](#) by Dr. Gina Samuels

- [EmbraceRace](#) was founded to create the community and gather the resources they needed (need!) to meet the challenges faced by those raising children in a world where race matters.
- Dr. Erin Winkler, Children Are Not Colorblind: How Young Children Learn Race, <https://inclusions.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Children-are-Not-Colorblind.pdf>
- Hamilton ER, Samek DR, Keyes M, McGue MK, Iacono WG. Identity Development in a Transracial Environment: Racial/Ethnic Minority Adoptees in Minnesota. *Adopt Q.* 2015;18(3):217-233. doi: 10.1080/10926755.2015.1013593. PMID: 26300622; PMCID: PMC4540225. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4540225/>