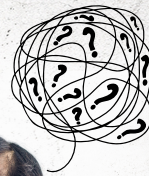




# Cultivating Curiosity™

Nurturing change one conversation at a time



A series dedicated to talking about big topics in bite-sized ways

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Growing Toward Liberation

*Cultivating Curiosity™ is rooted in connecting kids with their grown ups around complicated topics. Each edition focuses on exploring one "big" topic using a kid-friendly script, discussion questions, and a book list. When we make space for truth, healing will follow. Joining with kids in curiosity, trusting their capacity, and sitting together in the gray areas can help us all in growing toward collective liberation and a more inclusive world.*

## BEST PRACTICES FOR CULTIVATING CURIOSITY

### Trust

That kids have the capacity to hold what's relevant (and to leave what's not). If they've asked about it, direct and honest answers are always the developmentally appropriate response no matter the topic.

### Empower

Hearing about injustice, oppression, or other uncomfortable truths can be overwhelming. Be sure empower kids with what they can *realistically do*. It might be as big as visiting an elected official or as small as drawing a picture to share with someone close to them.

### Center Consent

Follow their lead. Only provide information they've asked for or is immediately relevant. Notice when they've disengaged and stop there. There will always be another opportunity to revisit the topic.

### Notice

What's coming up for you personally? Notice your own feelings and body sensations during the conversation. How are the ways you're feeling influence how you communicate information on this topic?

### Make Space

Ask them what *they* think before sharing what you think. Include varying perspectives that may differ from yours. Help them become comfortable holding multiple truths and sitting in gray areas.

### Connect

To their prior knowledge. Find out what they already know about the topic and build from there. Sometimes what they "know" will be inaccurate or incomplete. Finding the appropriate entry point can make all the difference.

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# HATE CRIMES

*Bias and identity-based discrimination happen on a continuum, with hate crimes being one of the more extreme ways bias shows up. While people with marginalized identities have been experiencing bias and discrimination throughout history in a variety of ways, we are now in a very polarized time where the prevalence of hate crimes and bias-motivated violence is increasing. With this increase comes also an increased visibility of these types of incidents in the news and out in the community where most kids will be exposed in some way at some point in their childhood.*

## ! NOTE:

While hate crimes could be considered "extreme," be sure to discuss bias more broadly as a key component of hate crimes and how this shows up in everyday life as well.

Don't forget to include all the "legal" ways bias gets perpetuated and causes different forms of violence even when there is no "crime" committed.

Be sure to include examples of microaggressions, bullying, and other types of identity-based exclusion that are just as harmful and **on the same continuum** as hate crimes.

1

## INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES

*Identity is what makes a person who they are. Each person has lots of different identities. Some of these are what you believe (religion), where you or your family comes from (ancestry/ethnicity), who you love (sexual orientation), your gender, skin color, race, age, or how your body works (ability).*



What are some of your personal identities that make you unique?

2

## THE POWER OF HATE

*Hate is when you strongly dislike something. It's a powerful word and we use it when we really want to make a strong point. But this word also has different power depending on whether we're talking about a thing or a person.*



How do you think the word "hate" changes its power depending on what you're talking about? Which one do you think has more power? Why?

3

## WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

*A crime is when a law gets broken. There are lots of types of crime. One kind is called a hate crime. This is when a person commits a crime in order to make someone else feel unsafe or unwelcome because of their identity. Usually hate crimes are committed against people with identities that have already been treated unfairly in other ways for a long time.*



What other types of crimes can you think of? Think of some examples of crimes that would (and would not) be hate crimes. How do you know for each one?

4

## INDIVIDUAL OR PHYSICAL HATE CRIMES

*Hate crimes might be directed at a single person. Sometimes they are violent against people's bodies - like getting attacked, hurt, or killed based on one or more of their identities.*



How does it make you feel to think about people being attacked just because someone else doesn't think they deserve to be who they are?



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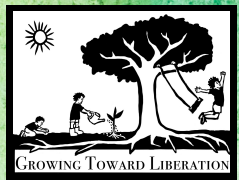


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# HATE CRIMES

## 5 NON-PHYSICAL & INDIRECT HATE CRIMES

*Other hate crimes might not touch anyone's body, but instead could be yelling, harassing, or threatening with words or body language toward someone about their identity.*

? Can you think of examples of things that might be mean to say that are NOT about someone's identity? How about things that are about their identity?

## 6 PROPERTY DESTRUCTION & VANDALISM

*Hate crimes might also involve belongings or living/work spaces. Like destroying property, some types of graffiti, or leaving something behind that could make someone with that identity worry about their safety if they see it.*

? Have you ever seen graffiti or other vandalism before? How would you know if it is a hate crime or not when you see it?

## 7 HATE CRIMES AFFECT EVERYONE

*Whether they are directed at a single person or a group, hate crimes can affect the whole community of people who share that identity even when they're far away from where it happened. Hate crimes make people feel scared, angry, unsafe, worried, or like they aren't welcome somewhere.*

? When is a time that you've seen someone **like you** get hurt or treated unfairly? How did it make you feel to see it?

## 8 BEING AN UPSTANDER

*ALL people deserve to feel safe and welcome in all spaces. Hate crimes are really serious. But even if it isn't something that breaks the law, it is never ok to make someone feel like they are unsafe or unwelcome because of who they are. That's why it's important for us to take care of each other and speak up if we see someone being mistreated.*

? What are some things you might be able to do or say if you see someone being mistreated about their identity?

Is it always safe for you to say something? If not, what else could you do instead to still speak up in a different safer way?



## Book List

Scan the QR code below to access a [Combating Bias & Identity-Based Discrimination](#)

Bookshop list. Books on this list include a variety of stories about identity-based harm and discrimination (racism, sexism, microaggressions, bullying, etc.) and being an upstander when we witness injustice.

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# HATE CRIMES

## EXTENSION ACTIVITY IDEAS



### Identity Art

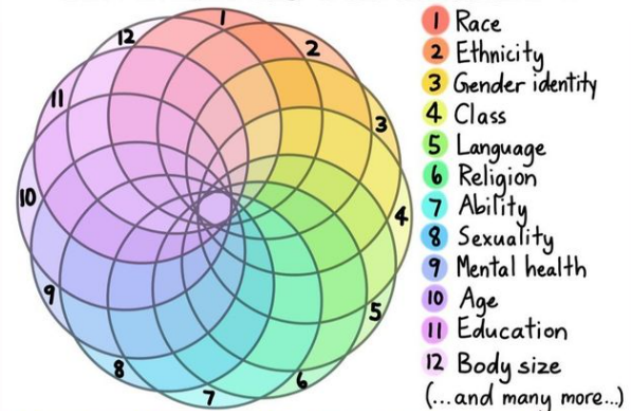
**Make a list of all the identities that make you who you are.**

**Brainstorm as many as you can come up with (use the graphic to the right from [Sylvia Duckworth](#) for ideas). On a new piece of paper, think about a way to represent each identity you've listed visually. At the end, you will have a full page of visual representations of yourself to reflect on.**

#### ? GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What color, texture, image, words, or designs help you express each identity best? How did these change when you moved onto a different identity?
- Where are all the places your identities intersect on the page? What does it feel like to look at them overlap with each other?
- What does it mean to you to have each of these identities affirmed by others? How does it feel when they are not?

### INTERSECTIONALITY



Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it locks and intersects. It is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.

— Kimberlé Crenshaw —

### Role Plays



**\*NOTE: With young children, using puppets or story characters can often be more effective than trying to get them to playing "themselves" in hypothetical circumstances.**

**Role play #1:** Act out some different ways to affirm the identities of others. How does your comfort level change when affirming someone who has an identity in common with you vs. someone who has a different one?

**Role Play #2:** Imagine you've just seen someone's identity be used as a basis for mean, hateful, or exclusionary actions or words. What could you say or do when you witness it?

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