



# WHY WORKING WITH DLLS HAS TO ADDRESS RACISM

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**BECOMING ANTI-RACIST EDUCATORS AND  
CLINICIANS TO EMPOWER CHILDREN WHO  
SPEAK LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH  
AND OTHER BLACK, INDIGENOUS, CHILDREN  
OF COLOR**



# LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION ARE POLITICAL

## UNDERSTANDING OUR BIASES AND THEIR IMPACT ON DLLS, MULTI-LINGUAL SPEAKERS, AND OTHER CHILDREN OF COLOR

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At first glance, it appears like working with young children who are DLL or who speak languages other than English is not an issue affected by racism. But the truth is, **because racism influences policies and practices related to DLLs, this is a topic that we need to address head on.**

### **Examples of Racism In our American Society:**

- English is more valued than other languages
- People with accents are perceived as less intelligent
- The focus is on English-only approaches despite research supporting the importance of promoting children's home language and the benefits of bilingualism
- The books and curricula children are exposed to seldom celebrate diversity authentically
- Classroom narratives are based on Euro-centric ideals
- There are few assessments that validly evaluate the academic performance of children of color
- Teachers, clinicians, and researchers tend to use deficit-based approaches when referring to bilingual people of color



# BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST EDUCATOR OR CLINICIAN

THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER YOU ARE A GOOD/BAD PERSON OR WHETHER YOU TREAT CHILDREN KINDLY. THE QUESTION IS, "HOW DOES MY EDUCATIONAL APPROACH SUPPORT THE RACIST SYSTEMS IN AMERICA?"

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In America, we have been socialized to uphold the idea that monolingual, English-speakers who are middle-class Whites are the ideal by which we measure children's success. This is not a socialization we are aware we have until we take the time to seriously reflect our assumptions. **We have ALL been affected by this socialization, so we all need to work to deconstruct it in ourselves, and within the education systems we operate.**

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# STARTING THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST EDUCATOR/CLINICIAN



## Educate yourself on anti-racism:

- [Read this article to start learning about this topic](#)
- [Look at this general list of resources to learn more](#)



## Self-reflect and apply cultural humility:

- [Workbook to reflect one's own biases](#)



## Amplify narratives that promote equity and inclusion in your classroom/clinic:

- [Read this book on creating an anti-bias classroom](#)
- [Read social justice books](#) and books with [empowered, diverse characters](#)



## Mind your language:

- Avoid labels that reinforce the idea that is English is superior
- Advocate for policies and practices that view bilingualism as an asset, not a deficit



## Advocate, advocate, advocate:

- Demand changes in children's curricula
- Hold leaders accountable for enacting anti-racist policies and practices



**"THIS IS NOT OUR TIME  
TO BE SILENT ABOUT  
RACISM. SPEAK UP AND  
SHOW UP TO PROMOTE  
INCLUSION AND  
DIVERSITY."**

