

WEEK

13

Early Childhood Education



"To be young, gifted and black, Oh what a lovely precious dream. To be young, gifted and black, Open your heart to what I mean." –Nina Simone

In spite of the structural barriers that have been institutionalized by our governmental policies and systems in order to prevent Black people from accessing equal education, Black people have excelled academically and contributed immensely to our nation's prosperity. In 1879, Harriett Beecher-Stowe observed that right out of slavery, Black people rushed not to the grog shop but to the school room. They cried for the spelling book as bread and pleaded for teachers as a necessity for life.

There is no racial achievement gap at birth. However, due to structural racism, there is an opportunity gap, meaning resources and opportunities are unequally or inequitably distributed and may therefore produce unequal outcomes. In addition to this, due to implicit bias and "deficit thinking," Black children are more likely to be viewed as intellectually inferior or inept because of their race.

Children begin to notice racial differences from a very young age and begin forming racialized judgements not long after, largely depending on the behavior of the adults and other children in their lives. By intervening early and having honest discussions about racial differences, children will grow up with a firmer understanding of what race is and, eventually, where racism comes from.



ACTIVITY ONE

READ: [Talking To Young Children About Race](#)



ACTIVITY TWO

WATCH: [Ibram X. Kendi Discusses His New Book "Antiracist Baby"](#)



ACTIVITY THREE

LISTEN: [Bias Isn't Just a Police Problem, It's A Preschool Problem](#)

Share your reflections and any resources that help further the discussion on today's topic on social media using the hashtag #UWLIEquityChallenge

A PARTNERSHIP OF

