



# Teaching Social Justice: Navigating the Deep Waters of Equity in Early Childhood

Presented by: Nadia Jaboneta

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Questions I am often asked:

- How did you become the anti-bias educator you are now?
- What are the steps that you took?
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Today we will also learn together about:

- The critical thinking and collaborative planning process that goes into social justice education.
- How children learn about identity and appreciate difference.
- Using the Thinking Lens as a tool to support deeper thinking.

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My Story



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Family Pride



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My Education



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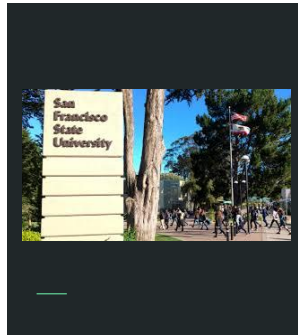
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Early Childhood Education



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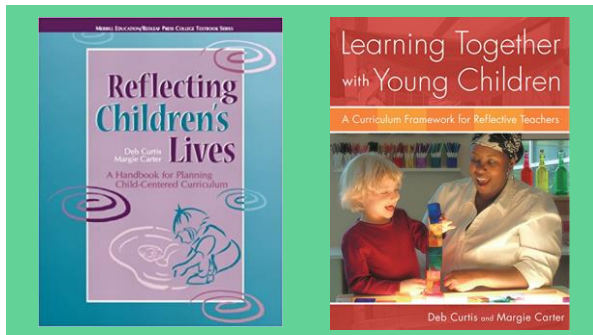
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### Thinking Partner



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#### A Thinking Lens for Reflection and Inquiry



THINKING LENS is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as a trademark/service mark of Harvest Resource Associates.

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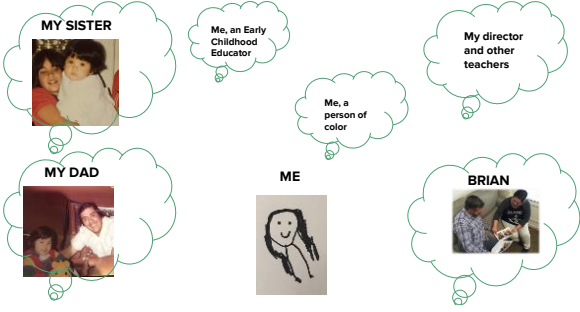
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“At our school, you can celebrate whatever you want to celebrate, no matter what your hair looks like, how tall or short you are, or what color you skin is.”

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I came away from this conversation full of questions:

*How do I bring my full self—a Latina raised by immigrant parents, in a predominantly White community—to my teaching?*

*What do I think about my sister's rules? Had I been using those rules when I'd redirected rather than engaged conversations like this in the past?*

*How are children thinking about race and racism, and what is my responsibility to them?*

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What is my role as a teacher?

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What about my colleagues' perspectives about keeping children safe from the violence of segregation and racism?

How am I going to bravely work my way through these questions, moving forward from here? How will I be safe, secure, and supported as I continue my journey as an anti-bias educator?

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### Making the Calls



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### How Children Learn about Identity and Difference



Piaget's cognitive development theory

- noticing the attributes of things;
- noticing how things are the same and different;
- noticing the characteristics that something does

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We invited each of the children to create an art piece to capture what delighted them about themselves.

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### Collaborations Grow



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There is no recipe or “survival guide”




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Questions to Guide My Response

- What touches my heart about this situation?
- What in my background or personal life is influencing my feeling and thinking right now?
- What might the children’s families hope I’ll say or do?
- How do my values about diversity and equity play into this situation?

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“Did you hear about what happened in Minnesota?”



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**Black Lives Matter Statement**  
**By The Coyotes**  
**July 2020**

**What does Black Lives Matter mean?**

The Black Lives Matter movement is a group of people who want to make sure that people of all skin colors are treated fairly. Black Lives Matter means to treat Black people fairly. Some people say "All lives matter," and they do, but right now Black lives matter because Black people are not being treated fairly and that's not nice or respectful of people's feelings. People are mad and angry that this is happening. They are marching and protesting. We need to listen to other people. Don't treat people differently because of the color of their skin.



**Why is the Black Lives Matter movement important?**

This work is so important! We are also feeling mad and we want to do something about it. We need to let everyone know we care! We can put up signs that say "Black Lives Matter." When people see the signs, they will know that we care about Black lives. We care about Brown lives too! They can tell other people and spread the word. We are like a rainbow and a rainbow should have all skin colors. Dr. King died, but we can continue his work. We can take Dr. King's place.

We hope you can join us and put up our Black Lives Matter sign on your window for everyone to see.  
Love, The Coyotes

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To learn more about this project, visit



<http://www.antibiasleadersece.com/>

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Thank You!

Child Care Exchange

<https://www.childcareexchange.com/>



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