An early learning collaboration by:

Family Activity

Black History Month
February 2022

All books are available at your local libraries or click on each book cover for read-aloud links!

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Beautiful Me

It is important to help children form a positive self-identity about how they look on the outside and who they are on the inside! It’s especially important for black and brown children to celebrate and develop pride in their outward appearance as they grow up in a society of so many different races and ethnicities.

- Use a blank piece of paper for your child to draw their self-portrait. Help your child pick crayons or colored pencils that accurately show their skin, hair, and eye color.
- Ask, “What makes you, you?” or “What makes you special?”
- Write down these ideas around your little one’s portrait.
- Descriptions can include their racial, ethnic, and cultural identity; for example: African American, Black, biracial, Cherokee, Japanese American, Irish American, Jewish, Muslim, Puerto Rican, White.
- Write words that describe your child’s skin color, eye color, hair, etc.
- Draw traditions and representations of your child’s heritage, including places their families call “home.”
- Finally, write about what makes your child special on the inside. Explain that how we look on the outside is a big part of who we are, but that our “inside” qualities are important, too.

Family Reading Tip: Start a Conversation

Go beyond the story and start a conversation with your little one! It’s important for kids to experience high quality interactions with adults from an early age. Use a story to start a conversation about something you’ve experienced together or encourage your child to repeat what you say, comment on it, and ask questions. For younger babies, eye gazing, pointing at specific images or even imitating the sounds they make while you read can start a conversation!

This activity is inspired by Sesame Street in Communities’ activity, “Beautiful Me.”

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women & the Space Race
Doreen Cronin

RESPECT, Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul
Carole Boston

Lola Loves Stories
Anna McQuinn

Sulwe
Lupita Nyong’o

When Langston Dances
Keith Mallet

Brown: The Many Shades of Love
Nancy Johnson James

This Jazz Man
Karen Ehrhardt

Last Stop on Market Street
Matt de la Peña

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