



## Being Intentional about Race and Young Children

Talking about race with young children can be difficult. Though adults often think avoiding the subject shields a child from racial issues or racism, the fact remains that children see race, whether it is discussed or not. Parents, educators, caregivers, and community leaders have a responsibility to be proactive in having conversations about race with children and making an intentional effort to help them understand what skin color and other physical characteristics mean in age-appropriate ways.

In partnership with P.R.I.D.E. and Frick Pittsburgh, join us for a day of professional development and explore how we, as early childhood educators, afterschool providers, and families, can create a positive environment to discuss race with young children. The day features Dr. Erin N. Winkler, professor of African & African Diaspora Studies and Urban Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Then, participate in two workshops.

Workshop presenters include Sheba G., Dr. Aisha White and Medina Jackson from P.R.I.D.E., Wolf Trap teaching artist Celeta Hickman, Cynthia Battle from Trying Together, LaKeisha Wolf from Ujamaa Collective and Molly Kilbridge from Frick Pittsburgh along with Dr. Kathryn Carroll, kindergarten teacher at Pittsburgh Faison K-5. After you register, we will email you for your workshop preferences.

Registration to the UnConference includes registration to the P.R.I.D.E. Speaker Series featuring Dr. Erin Winkler's keynote on Thursday, September 27, from 5–7 p.m., at the Frick Pittsburgh. It is highly recommended that UnConference attendees attend this speaker series event.

## How to Register

[tryingtogether.org](http://tryingtogether.org)

Register now to reserve your space! When the workshops are finalized, you will receive an email from Yu-Ling to select your preferred workshops. We will do our best to place you in your requested workshop, but this is not guaranteed. There is limited space in each workshop and workshop placement is based on the date of your registration, so we recommend you register early.

**Please register by 5pm on Thursday, September 20th.**

For groups of 6+ people, there is a 10% discount.

**Please email Yu-Ling at [conference@tryingtogether.org](mailto:conference@tryingtogether.org) for more information.**

## What do I receive?

- 5 PQAS/DHS credits and Act 48
- Light breakfast and lunch
- Networking with colleagues
- Hands-on, interactive workshop sessions
- Refreshed or refined thinking about our work with young children

## Thank You To Our Sponsors and Partners



A huge THANK YOU to our: co-hosts, P.R.I.D.E. and Frick Art and Historical Center, series sponsor PNC Grow Up Great and sponsors Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)\*, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Henry L. Hillman Foundation, and to our workshop partners!



*\*Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of OCDEL; nor does mention by trade names, commercial practice or organization imply endorsement by the Commonwealth.*

## About Dr. Erin Winkler

Erin N. Winkler is associate professor of African & African Diaspora Studies and Urban Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She earned her Ph.D. in African American Studies at the University of California-Berkeley and was a postdoctoral fellow in African American Studies at Northwestern University. She is author of the book, *Learning Race, Learning Place: Shaping Racial Identities and Ideas in African American Childhoods*. She has recently consulted for the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, working to train museum staff to have productive conversations about race and racism with visitors of all ages and backgrounds (2016), and serving as an instructor in the Museum's week-long workshop for K-12 teachers, "Let's Talk: Teaching Race in the Classroom" (2017).

## About Trying Together

Trying Together supports high-quality care and education for young children by providing advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them. Trying Together works regionally (in Southwestern Pennsylvania) and takes its expertise and models to statewide and national audiences.

## About P.R.I.D.E.

The P.R.I.D.E. (Positive Racial Identity Development in Early Education) Program is part of the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development within the School of Education. At P.R.I.D.E. our focus is on helping young Black children, aged 3 to 8, develop a positive racial identity. Studies have shown that when children are socialized to embrace their race, ethnicity, and heritage, it can lead to numerous positive outcomes. This event is part of the P.R.I.D.E. Speaker Series, which invites parents, caregivers, educators, and the community at-large to learn about and engage in discussions about race, education, and young children.

Visit [RacePRIDE.pitt.edu](http://RacePRIDE.pitt.edu) for more info.

## Morning Workshop Options (3 options):

### Dance, Rhythm and Consensus Building in the Early Childhood Space

**Presented by Celeta Hickman, Artist/Designer, Edo Scribes & Pleasantries, LLC, and P.R.I.D.E. Artist**

Culturally responsive pedagogy is a fine example of making content more relatable—a foundational key to creating lifelong learners. We'll use time-honored methods of collective dances, songs, and chants that inspire, uplift, and build self-esteem, and awareness in children that enhance learning experiences and cognitive development. Creative movement is the theme, but we'll be taking a multidisciplinary arts journey to hear multiple voices of expression. Educators will explore innovative ways to encourage children to engage in collective effort, contribute to the group and show respect for their emerging leadership skills and that of others.

**Note: This workshop is also available as an afternoon workshop.**

### The Power of Self-Love Through Art & Making

**Presented by LaKeisha Wolf, Executive Director, Ujamaa Collective, and P.R.I.D.E. Artist**

One of the most important and perhaps overlooked aspects of early education is the value of connection. It's actually something we all need throughout life. However, when young children leave home to enter formal institutions, many children of color face a lack of culturally relevant and socially practical education that connects them to self, others and their personal power. In this workshop, we'll explore two art-making activities developed for the P.R.I.D.E. pop-up festivals that center Africana children in the world as a part of the global majority in which they belong. The creative activities revolve around honoring self and family through adornment, and drawing connections to community with nature as a guide. Through this workshop, we will identify the intentional ways in which we as educators and families, can build the esteem, power and connections that are vital in shaping how our young Black children see themselves and the world.

### Opening up a World of Exploration: Setting Students up for Success in Unfamiliar Settings

**Presented by Molly Kilbridge, Manager of Community and Family Learning at The Frick Pittsburgh and Dr. Kathryn Carroll, Kindergarten teacher at Pittsburgh Faison K-5 and P.R.I.D.E. Educator**

According to the American Association of Museums, just 9 percent of core museum visitors are minorities. Often referred to as 'white spaces,' museums can sometimes be intimidating places that produce what's been called 'threshold fear' in adults. Imagine then the feelings of young children of color experiencing their first field trip to a museum. By understanding the children's personal stories and where they come from, we can better understand the impact experiencing such places can have on them and create situations that will be more successful. This session centers on how we can set children up for success in these types of unfamiliar cultural settings and situations. In addition, through examples of the educational partnership between the Frick and the kindergarten classes at Faison, we will explore ways in which object-based learning, classroom teachers, and museum educators can help children gain insight about themselves through exploration and creative expression in a 'different' cultural setting.

**Note: This workshop is also available as an afternoon workshop.**

## Afternoon Workshop Options (4 options):

### "Hey, he looks just like me!"— Using picture books to help young Black children explore and embrace their identity

**Presented by Dr. Aisha White, Director, The P.R.I.D.E. Program and Cynthia Battle, Community Outreach Specialist, Trying Together**

In this session, you will be exposed to a range of stunning, engaging picture books about the Africana image, enhance your book selection skills using a racial lens, and learn to start dialogs and develop activities that expand the book reading process in the context of the Black experience. Studies show that, at the time children are reading picture books, they are also developing their own racial identities and racial attitudes. Authentic picture books that tell stories and include illustrations depicting the diverse Africana race are likely to have a positive influence in shaping Black children's racial attitudes towards others and their own racial identities. This workshop offers a number of ways for you to support children's positive identity development by augmenting the remarkable work of picture book authors and illustrators.

### Up-Rooting: Positive Racial Identity, Cultural Humility and Exploring our Racial Narratives

**Presented by Medina Jackson, Director of Engagement, The P.R.I.D.E. Program**

Through critical self-awareness, reflective writing, dialogue and mindfulness, participants will take an "inside-out" journey of exploring and processing early experiences, messaging, and influences about race and how these messages impact how we show up in the world and in our work. Workshop participants will also gain an understanding of positive racial identity development in early education (P.R.I.D.E.) as a strategy to uplift Black children in educational and community spaces in tandem with the 3 part approach of cultural humility, a step beyond cultural competency, which helps us create more open, effective engagement experiences to recognize and appreciate the inherent humanity within us all.

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