



Trying Together

unconference: 2023

Race Equity in Practice

In order for programs to create inclusive and welcoming environments for all children, early care and education professionals must be knowledgeable about the importance of racial identity. However, understanding the development of racial identity is just the beginning; early educators must be equipped with strategies to support racial identity in children. Through practical approaches, early childhood education staff can not only make programs more racially equitable, but can encourage the healthy development of the whole child.

Trying Together's "UnConference: Race Equity in Practice," will include sessions that will focus on a variety of ways that ECE staff can support and advocate for more racially equitable programs through play, literacy, environment, and more.

Saturday, February 11, 2023

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location:

The Frick Pittsburgh

7227 Reynolds Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Cost: \$25



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Keynote

Aware is Only Halfway There: Concrete Strategies for Supporting Children's Racial Identity Development. Are you Ready?

Keynote speaker Dr. Rosemarie Allen will be presenting "Aware is Only Halfway There: Concrete Strategies for Supporting Children's Racial Identity Development. Are you Ready?" Dr. Allen's presentation will help participants assess their readiness to create an anti-racist/anti-bias classroom, identify culturally responsive and culturally sustaining practices, identify stages of racial awareness for young children, and develop concrete strategies for promoting racial identity development in children.

Sessions

Creating an Anti-Racist Early Childhood Environment

Speaker: Dr. Rosemarie Allen

Participants will identify factors that promote an equitable, anti-bias/anti-racist educational environment. They will identify critical factors related to equitable practices, including the importance of discussing race, recognizing messages and actions that ensure a sense of belonging and inclusion, and developing a positive racial identity in all children. Participants will identify the seven principles of culturally responsive practices.

Becoming Culturally AWARE - Understanding Oppression; Breaking Down the Terms

Speaker: Tammi McMillan

This session will engage learners in courageous conversations regarding race, culture, socio-economic status, and bias. Following this session, participants will have a thorough understanding of the "isms" and, historically, how we got to this point.

Reading and Representation: Black Children's Literature and Storytelling

Speaker: Cynthia Battle

The history of representation of black children in children's literature is long and complex. However, recognizing what real representation is and the inclusion of books that aim at representation is crucial for a child's identity development. In this workshop, participants will explore the history of storytelling that reflects African American people and culture, the authors that wrote these books, and how books with poor and positive representation impact children in the ECE setting.

Inquiry, Identity, and Art: The Practice of Using Art to Celebrate Identities

Speaker: Stacey McSorley and Amanda Awanjo

What does it mean to see ourselves in the art that we make and the art that surrounds us? In this workshop, instructors will discuss how art is crucial to understanding and expressing diverse identities. Educators will not only participate in their own art making but will learn the developmental appropriateness of identity-focused art as well as its impact on children.

From Habitual Reactions to Genuine Responses: Relational Practices for Racial Justice Conversations

Speaker: Hanna du Plessis

In the work of racial justice, we can feel disappointed in or frustrated with ourselves when we don't show up as we hope. We might react to situations with silence or over-reactions, which often harms relationships. In this workshop, participants are invited to reflect on their reactions through a trauma informed lens, gain insight into why individuals overreact or freeze, and imagine how a framework of supportive practices can lead to better responses and relationships.



Details and registration information are available at <https://bit.ly/Race-Equity-Practice>
Registration closes Thursday, February 9, 2023.