

Who We Are

The New York City Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC), is funded by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH).

TTAC is a partnership between the New York Center for Child Development (NYCCD) and the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research

- New York Center for Child Development has been a major provider of early childhood mental health services in New York with expertise in informing policy and supporting the field of Early Childhood Mental Health through training and direct practice.
 NYU McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research houses the Community and Managed Care Technical Assistance Centers (CTAC & MCTAC.) Peer TAC, and the Center for Workforce Excellence (CWE). These IT A centers offer chinic, business, and system transformation supports statewide to all behavioral healthcare providers across NYS.

TTAC is tasked with building capacity and competencies of mental health professionals and early childhood professionals in family serving systems to identify and address the social-emotional needs of young children and their families.







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Updated TTAC Website A Selection of Features: Seamlessly filter, toggle and search through upcoming and archived content, trainings and resources View videos, slides, and presenter information on the same training page Contact the TTAC team by clicking on Ask TTAC and filling out our Contact Us form And more! Have questions or need assistance? Please contact us at **ttac.info@nyu.edu** and we'll be happy to assist you Explore all the provider resources at ttacny.org MCSILVER INSTITUTE FOR POWERTY POLICY AND RESEARCH ASYS TODAL UNIVERSALTY



Disclosures

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 O Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
 Administration 1H79SP082105-01

I have no conflicts to disclose

Isha W. Metzger, PhD



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Learning Objectives

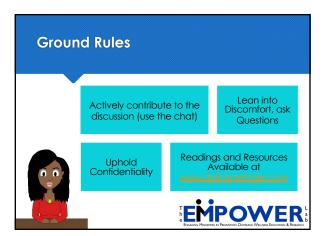
By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

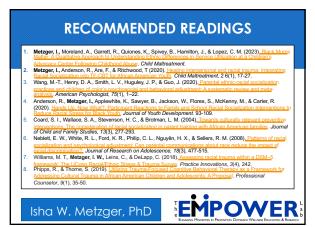
- 1. Understand the impact of racial stress and trauma on young children's development.
- 2. Explain how racial socialization can be a protective factor for emotional resilience.
- 3. Apply play-based strategies to integrate racial socialization into interventions.

Isha W. Metzger, PhD



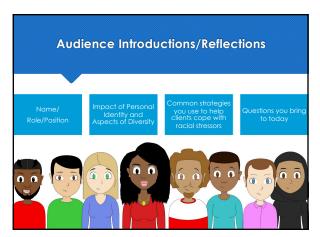




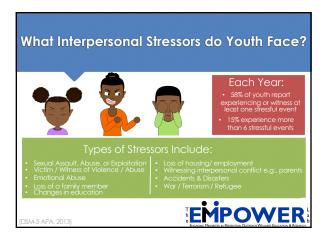


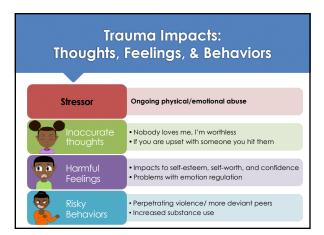


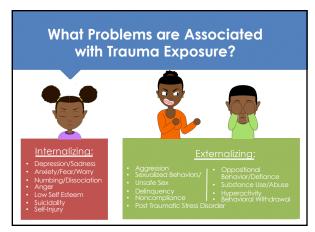












What is Racial Stress and Trauma?

Recent data on Black and other ethnically minoritized adults and youth as young as 8 suggest

- an average of 5 <u>daily</u> experiences with racial stressors [English et al., 2020]
 up to 90% report experiencing racial stressors <u>each</u> <u>week</u> (Pachter et al., 2010)

Can be due to an individual experience or ongoing collective experiences

• can be direct or vicarious, and

- can range in impact from stressful to potentially traumatic

Dangerous or frightening race-based experiences that "overwhelm one's coping capacity and impacts quality of life and/or cause fear, helplessness, & horror..." (Carter, 2007)



Racial stressors are common, and when you experience them, it's important to know that you are not alone or wrong in your reactions. What is an example of a stressor that you have experienced or witnessed recently that was based on the color of your skin? This could be something like being followed around a store or seeing someone getting bullied about their hair texture.



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Experiences of Young Children

Examples of Early Childhood Racial Stress:

- Witnessing racial violence or discriminationImplicit biases in educational
- and social settings
 Media exposure to racial
- injustice

 Bullying and isolation from peers

Early Impact

- Emotional Dysregulation
 Increased anxiety or fear
 Decreased self-esteem and confidence
 Somatic Complaints



Psychological Consequences

Anxiety and Fear
Depression
Sleep Difficulties
Diminished Confidence
Helplessness
Loss of Drive
Diminished Cognition
Intrusive Cognitions
Suicidality

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Common Reactions to Racial Stressors

Internal Dilemmas

- Should I say/do something? Saying something may make it worse.
- They'll probably think I'm overreacting. I should have been able to speak up
- Did I interpret that correctly?
- Did they say what I think they said? What did they mean by that?
- There is nothing I can do to control this







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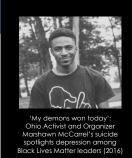
How are Racial Stressors Traumatic?

Violates an individual's personhood and leaves the victim feeling disempowered and powerless

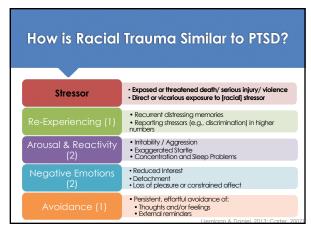
- Affect survivors in ways that are similar to the effect that rape and domestic violence have on their victims
- Events are unpredictable and uncontrollable

Subtle acts may be worse than overt acts

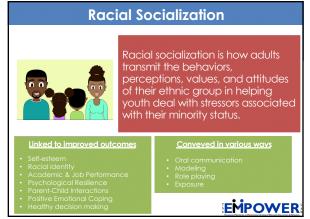
· May be challenged, ridiculed, or dismissed by others



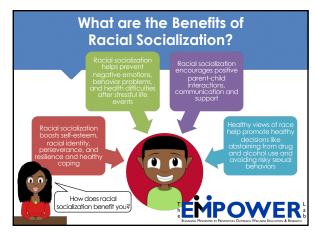




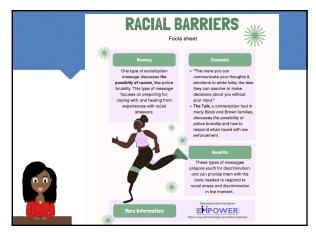


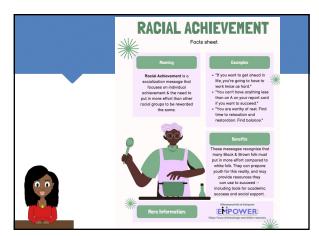


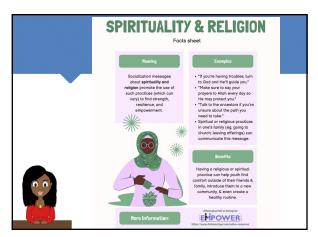


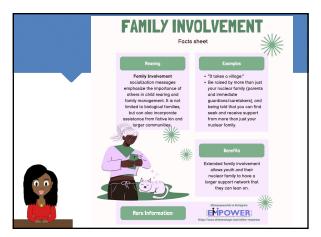


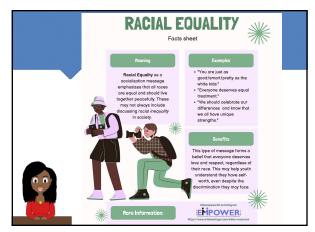














Using Play to Nurture Resilience Why Play Matters - Safe way to process emotions and develop self-expression - Promotes creativity, problem-solving, and emotional bonding - Role-playing scenarios of bias and inclusion - Storytelling with diverse cultural themes - Interactive games that model coping and resilience - Parent-Child Engagement Strategles - Create an affirming, inclusive home environment

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Racial Socialization through Play



Display a bowl of M&M's. Do not let kids touch the M&M's.

- What do you see?
- What can you tell me about these M&M's just from looking at them? (e.g. different colors)
- Are there any of these M&M's better than the others?
 - acknowledge that some may have a favorite color
 - some may be cracked or broken
 - steer conversation to the value of the candy itself

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Racial Socialization through playing with M&M's

We are all just like this bowl of M&M's. We may appear different on the outside, but we are alike on the inside

Let each child have one M&M to eat. Ask them to bite into it, if they can, to look at the inside.

Compare insides, noting how they are all the same.



We may like the red ones or the green ones best, but that does not mean the yellow ones aren't as good. This is the same with people. There may be some people we like a lot, but this does not mean other people are not as good.

The M&M's are all made of the same ingredients to make chocolate. Just like M&M's, people are all made of the same things.

We all have blood, muscles, skin, a heart that feels, and yet we all look different on the outside.

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What if you were all the same size, shape or color? This world would not be as interesting or fun. Our differences are what makes life exciting!



Highlight differences in ability along with difference in size, shape or color.

Eat the M&M's!

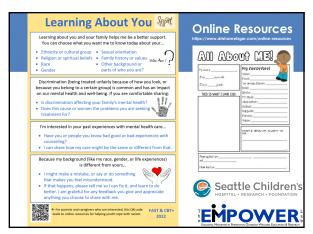
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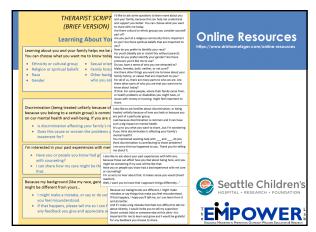
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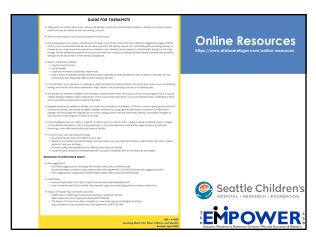
- O Overview, Ground Rules, Introductions
- O Understanding Racial Stress and Trauma in Young Children
- O Racial Socialization as a Tool for Emotional Resilience
- O Play and Parent-Child Interaction in Racial Socialization
- O Evidence-Based Strategies for Integration
- O Take-Home Resources
- O Acknowledgements, Questions, and Discussion

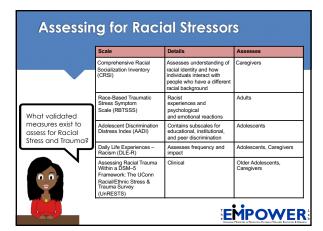
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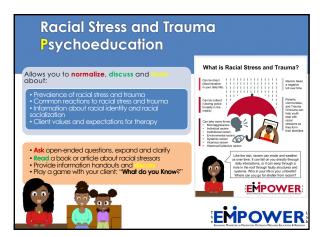




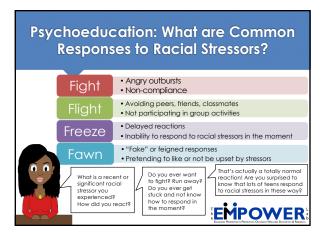










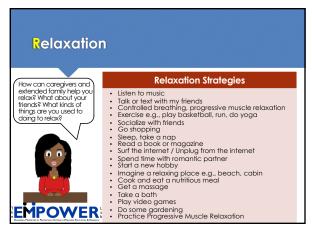


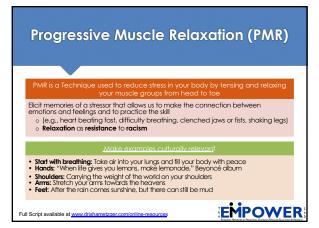




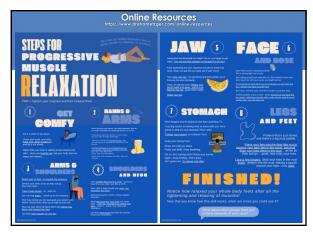


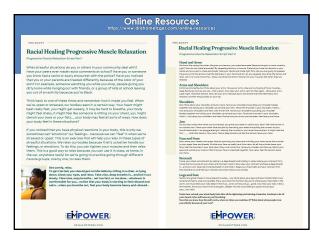


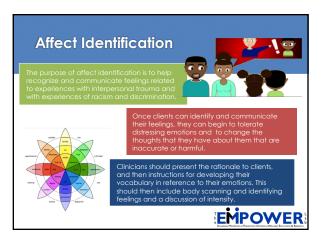


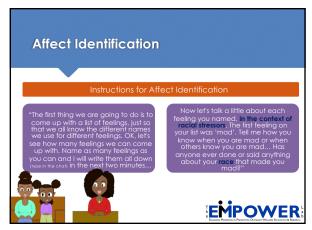












Affect Identification

Feelings Charades

People's body language tells a lot about how they are feeling. For instance, when some people are mad, they may grit their teeth or cross their arms and squint their eyes. Teaching Black youth how to 'read' body language will help them tune in to how other people are feeling. It will also help them tune in to their own body language and to better communicate their emotions, which can give them a sense of self control. This will go a long way in helping them to practice emotion regulation when faced with big emotions related to racial stressors.

To play Feelings Charades, have youth clients pick a card from the deck of feeling faces and act out the feeling written on the card. The clinician or another family member must try and guess what emotion they are acting out. Players take turns in different roles (i.e., actor, guesser)

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Affect Identification

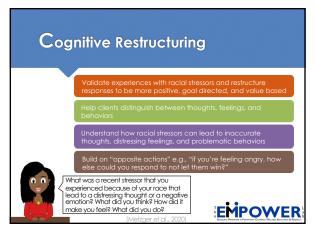


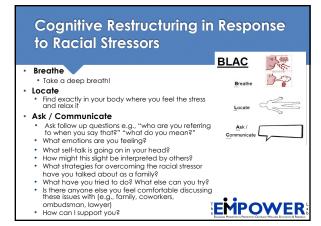
Feelings Slap Game

Lay an assortment of cards or pictures of feelings face up. As you call out a feeling, the client must slap the card that has the feeling face you called.

Clients can play this alone or with a family member. When playing with two players, the player who slaps the feeling card first gets to keep it.













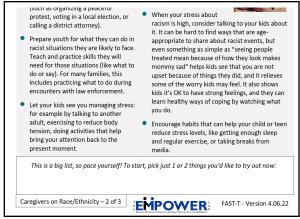
Psychoeducation Handouts Supporting Youth Who Experience Racism Ideas for Parents and Caregivers Watching children experience a racist world can be heartbreaking, but there are some powerful things parents and caregivers can do to help. This handout includes three parts. Talk through them with your youth's counselor or another trusted person in your life. Or you can use these on your own and with your family: Part 1 is to help you think about your family's experience so far. Parts 2 and 3 give lots of ideas for helping youth cope with racism and build a healthy connection to their race or ethnicity. These ideas come from the wisdom of generations of parents and caregivers of color, and from experts in the field. This approach has been shown to boost youths' self-esteem, decision-making and school performance. It also helps youth feel better about themselves and the world after they experience or witness something racist. The property of the property of

Part 1: Questions to think about and discuss. What do you think your child or teen understands about racism? What have they experienced? What conversations have you had about racism? How else have you tried to prepare them? How do you think knowing about or experiencing racism is affecting your child or teen? How do they seem to cope with it? Do you see signs that your child or teen has come to believe negative things about their racial or cultural group, or their place in the world? How are YOU coping as a parent or caregiver? How do you make sense of these things for yourself? Who do you go to for support? What gives you strength when you need it? (Find links to the experts whose work informed this handout, and more great resources, on the third page.) Seattle Children's Caregivers on Race/Ethnicity – 1 of 3

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Part 2: Ideas for Helping Kids Cope with Racism The ideas on this page focus on responding to racism when it occurs. In Part 3 you'll find ideas for building a positive identity and connecting with cultural strengths, which also boost kids' coping. Ask your child or teen about racism they have witnessed (in their community or online) or experienced themselves. Provide support, answer their questions, and share how you their questions, and share how you they are the support of the suppo Talk with kids about upsetting current events you cope and make sense of the think they are likely to hear about. Be honest in situation. answering their questions without over-sharing. Share ways Give youth messages about achievement in the face of barriers. One example is: "You will need to work twice as hard to be rewarded the same." vou make sense of the world's Read books or watch shows together that involve race or racism, and use that as an opportunity to ask what your child noticed and felt, and share your own reactions. unfairness and the ways you cope and find meaning ways you cope and nind meaning. Find ways to take action, together. This might be supporting your community (shopping at a business owned by someone in your racial or ethnic group) or another form of activism you are comfortable with (such as organizing a peaceful protest, woting in a local election, or calling a district attorney). Celebrate other cultures and discuss the benefits of diversity. As a family, find ways to support other oppressed groups. racism is high, consider talking to your kids about

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Part 3: Ideas for Promoting a Positive Identity

- Teach your kids about the historical and
 Show your kids the ways you feel pride in your systemic causes of inequality, so they won't see inequality as being caused by individual racial or cultural differences. Books, movies and documentaries about history can help explain hidden causes of inequality.
- Tell your kids that racial stereotypes that exist are false, and draw their attention to counter-examples whenever you come across them.
- Expose your kids to your racial or ethnic heritage, for example by telling stories about your family history, visiting museums or traveling.



- acial or cultural identity. For example, share your excitement about an artist, author or musician who shares your identity; call out clothes or hairstyles you admire; or comment on your family's talents and good looks.
- Connect with a religious community or with spiritual beliefs if that is a source of strength for you. Share your own beliefs and spiritual practices, or learn together about the beliefs and practices of your ancestors.
- When possible, build strong connections between your child and their extended family members. Is there a cultural tradition of involving extended family in child rearing? If so, that can be a huge source of strength.
- Share your values and cultural traditions.

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- Expose your kids to role models (past or present) from your racial or ethnic group who demonstrate your values and represent your culture.
- Participate in community activities with others from your racial or ethnic group.
- Cook traditional meals or sample traditional foods.
- Be on the lookout for new books, films, or media that relate to your race or culture to enjoy together.
- Teach them that all races are equal and should live together peacefully.
- Using media, museums, or your own family stories, highlight examples of strength and determination shown by members of your group.
 - Share ways your group has shaped the world or broader culture.
- If school textbooks If school textbooks don't cover your group's history, look for books that do. <u>Some examples!</u>
- Use this list of great books, articles, videos and websites, by age and with descriptions.
- For more resources on coping, promoting positive identity, and talking to children about racism, visit the Racial Trauma Guide.

Again, it's okay to pick just 1 or 2 things you'd like to focus on now. Write any ideas you have below:

This handout was inspired by this page and created in consultation with Dr. Isha Metzaer. Learn more about supporting resilience and healing in African American youth at https://www.drishametzaer.com/core-package-for-rade/shealing. Check out related resources from Biona Elyse Anderson and embracerace.org for help having "The Talk" with your kids. Seame Street has a ton of great resources for families and you can find resources for Asian American parents supporting their kids during COVID in English, and several other languages. 17

Caregivers on Race/Ethnicity – 3 of 3

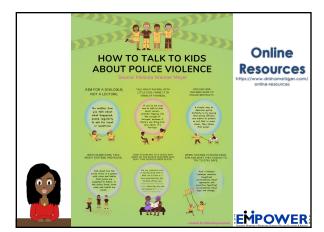


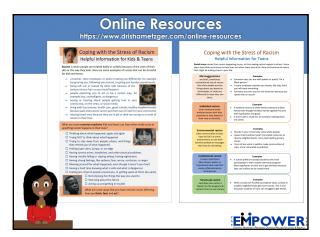






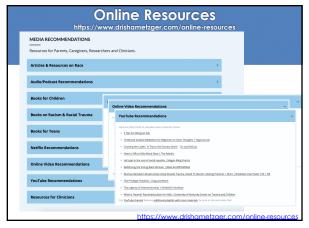


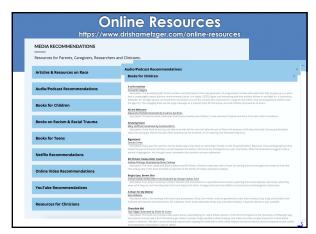
















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- The Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
- National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Elmodern Graphic Design
 The EMPOWER Lab Undergraduate and Graduate Students
- University of Georgia Racial Trauma Task Force



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