Episode 1: Centering in Black Joy and Excellence with our Children, Families and Communities

What is a Black joy?

“Black joy means not erasing the difficulties of the Black experience but showing the whole truth by creating balance... Black joy is a form of resistance. The world may be working against us, but in the face of that it is really an activist movement for Black people to still choose and find joy.”

- Klever Cruz (2021)

Articles:

  1. Practice Self-Care.
  2. Get Children Involved.
  4. Learn About Black Creatives and Artists.
  5. Celebrate Black Healers and Innovators.
- **Black Joy, We Deserve It** by Cody Charles (2017) [https://medium.com/reclaiming-anger/black-joy-we-deserve-it-1ab8dc7569b1](https://medium.com/reclaiming-anger/black-joy-we-deserve-it-1ab8dc7569b1)

Research Reports:


Organizations/Events:
- The Annual Black Joy Parade in Oakland, CA https://www.blackjoyparade.org/about
- The National Center for Afro-American Artists (NCAAA) https://ncaaa.org
- Coalition of Black Excellence https://cbenonprofit.org
- The Black Genius Foundation https://www.theblackgeniusfoundation.org
- The Foundation for Black Excellence https://www.foundationforblackexcellence.org

Videos:

Audio:

Books:
- Black Joy: Stories of Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration by Tracey Michae’l Lewis-Giggetts (2022). *Here is a link to a short news interview with the author on NBC
- Teaching and Leading with Emotional Intelligence: A Dilemma-Based Casebook for Early Care and Education by Peggy Daly Pizzo, Teresa Gonczy O’Rourke, & Ed Greene (2027).

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● **Don’t Look Away: Embracing Anti-bias Classrooms** by Iheoma Iruka, Stephanie Curenton, & Tonia Durden (2020).

● **Advancing Equity and Embracing Diversity in Early Childhood Education: Elevating Voices and Actions** by Iliana Alanís, Iheoma Iruka, & Susan Friedman (2021).

**Resources for Children:**

**Racially Affirming Children’s Books**

- *Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood* by Kwame Mbalia
- *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry
- *I can do it too!* by Karen Baicker
- *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Watch Us Rise* by Renée Watson and Ellen Hagan
- *I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick D. Barnes
- *Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children* by Sandra L. Pinkney
- *I’m Dreaming of a Brown Christmas* by Steven Gray and Vernon Gibbs
- *Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race* by Megan Madison
- *The ABCs of HBCUs* by Claudia Walker.
- *TuTu Goes Green* by Tulani Thomas.

**Children’s Literacy**

- **COMING TOGETHER: The ABCs of Racial Literacy** - Sesame Street in Communities. Provides resources to develop children’s understanding, curiosity, resilience, and empathy—and to prepare for the task of building a better world by standing up, standing tall, and standing together. [https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/racial-justice/](https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/racial-justice/)

**Affirmations**

- Charm Words Podcast [https://www.abfc.co/shows/charm-words-affirmations-for-kids/](https://www.abfc.co/shows/charm-words-affirmations-for-kids/)

**Color and Colorism**

- *All the Colors we Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color* by Katie Kissinger [https://socialjusticebooks.org/all-the-colors-we-are-story-skin-color/](https://socialjusticebooks.org/all-the-colors-we-are-story-skin-color/)
Children’s Activities/Toys

- **The Black Toy Store** (online destination for hand-picked children’s toys, games, books and gifts that reflect the beauty, joy diversity of the African Diaspora curated by Claudia Walker).  
  [https://blacktoystore.com/](https://blacktoystore.com/)
- **Our Brown Boy Joy** [https://www.ourbrownboyjoy.com](https://www.ourbrownboyjoy.com)
- **Kiwico Science and Art Projects for kids** [https://www.kiwico.com/](https://www.kiwico.com/)