

Growing Anti-racist UU's: A Curriculum for Children

www.uucharlottesville.org/anti-racist-curriculum/

Racial Justice Curriculum

Kindergarten-Grade 2

The lessons for these grade levels are intended for children approximately 6-9 years old. This age group, while able to build experiences about the world, does so from a concrete perspective. They are aware of themselves as individuals and identities of the groups they belong to, i.e. family, school, play, church. Children are eager to verbally communicate stories about themselves and their groups. As they develop, children begin to offer their ideas about others and wonder about the beginnings of their families, community and their world.

The important goal of the curriculum is for children to respect and value difference in skin shades while recognizing the need to promote love and justice for all. The first 6 lessons proceed from self-awareness, family differences, friendships at school and in neighborhoods, church beliefs around respect and diversity, recognition of one's community, and of the world. Each lesson connects to the seven UU principles, in a language for children's understanding (see Rainbow Chalice description). As children in this age group need concrete experiences, each lesson provides an engaging activity and relevant children's book which illustrates the goals.

The goal of the 12 lessons is for children to recognize that persons have far more qualities than their appearances, that the possibilities of truly knowing, or knowing about them, far exceeds looking at them or at their pictures. The lesson about immigration (discovering each person's roots and heritage) quite naturally leads to indigenous groups in this country (native Americans) and enslaved persons. The quest for freedom of both groups is similar. Children will begin to understand the concepts of "white privilege", "persons of color" and "white supremacy". Finally, the ultimate recognition of respect and justice for persons of color results in a book of freedom or human rights, and a new flag of America created by children, both of which promote respect and justice.

The lessons for Kindergarten-Grade 2 have been created by Elaine Chapman, TJMC member.