



Does Anybody Else Look Like Me?: A Parent's Guide To Raising Multiracial Children

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"Am I black or white or am I American?" "Why don't my eyes look like yours?" "Why do people always call attention to my 'different' hair?" Helping a child understand his mixed racial background can be daunting, especially when, whether out of honest appreciation or mean-spiritedness, peers and strangers alike perceive his features to be "other." Drawing on psychological research and input from more than fifty multiracial families, *Does Anybody Else Look Like Me?* addresses the special questions and concerns facing such families, explaining how they can best prepare their multiracial children to make their way confidently in our color-conscious world. From the books and toys to use in play with young children, to simple scripts to help them gracefully react to insensitive comments at school, to advice on guiding older children toward an unflappable sense of self, *Does Anybody Else Look Like Me?* is the first book to outline for parents how, exactly, to deflect the objectifying and discomfiting attention multiracial children are likely to receive. Full of powerful stories and expert counsel, it is sure to become the book that both adoptive and birth parents of different races will look to for understanding as they strive to raise their children in a changing world.

Does Anybody Else Look Like Me?: A Parent's Guide To Raising Multiracial Children Details

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craige says

I've been reading anything I can get my hands on from my local library about adoption, specifically transracial adoption. This book had some helpful parts which would be applicable to any parent really, such as how to keep a dialog going throughout your kids' childhoods about racism. But a lot of the book deals specifically with multiracial kids who aren't adopted. Many of the same issues and many issues that just aren't the same. All in all, a worthwhile read to skim. Just be forewarned that it may make you feel like no matter what you aren't going to be able to do a good enough job helping your child navigate racism.

Bob Bellamy says

Poorly edited to the point of distraction. She gives too many qualifiers on people she introduced and utilized throughout the book. I guess the author thinks you can't remember a few names. Sometimes this is helpful if they have not been mentioned for a while but seriously, she gives the same information about an author two pages later. It is too much.

The information seems fine but as I read elsewhere, this is a Caucasian mother writing about raising her multiethnic children. Also, it is somewhat well-researched but she is a journalist, not a professional sociologist, psychiatrist, etc.

The info was a little helpful but ultimately fell short of being a great book.

Salsabrarian says

Raising multiracial kids to be color-blind will not work says the author. She discusses ways to raise a multiracial child to have positive self-esteem, be appreciative of all their cultures, develop a comfortable self-identity, and be able to deal with people who are ignorant of multiracial issues. The key to successfully raising multiracial kids in a world of social race constructs is developing an ongoing, open dialog about race and culture. The author looks at three key developmental stages: preschool (when concepts must be presented concretely), early elementary (when wanting to be liked and belonging becomes important) and middle school (clash of adolescence and cultural identity--which group do I belong to?) and discusses ways to deal with those stages. Opened my eyes to the concerns of people who are multiracial! Interviews inform the book; bibliography of children's books included.

Stephanie says

book jacket description -

"The author, a freelance writer, is from a western European background, while her husband is Japanese American. Although Nakazawa initially hoped to raise her son and daughter to be "color blind," they couldn't

ignore the many comments made by both adults and children concerning Christian and Claire's appearance. When Christian was a toddler he was asked if he spoke Chinese, and the author was assured that little Claire didn't "even look Asian." Nakazawa decided to develop strategies to ensure that her son and daughter would be proud of their heritage and confident about their multiracial identity. Finding no useful book on the subject, she decided to write her own. Based on personal experience and interviews conducted with 60 other multiracial families, Nakazawa has skillfully combined anecdotal research with a strong knowledge of childhood and educational development philosophy to provide this useful guide for raising multiracial children in a color- and race-conscious world. Nakazawa believes that, although most three-year-olds are not racially aware, it is important to deflect insensitive comments from strangers about appearance. As a child grows older, this early dialogue should deepen, so that children will feel safe and comfortable discussing their racial identity with parents and be able to bring up any racially charged experiences that have occurred at school or with friends. Included are suggestions for the special problems that may arise during adolescence."

Cathleen says

A decent book for parents that have experienced growing up in the majority who have a child that may be in the minority. It does touch on struggles that may be specific to multiracial children, but much of the discussion could apply to any minority child. Growing up in Asian in a nearly all white community, I could relate a lot to the anecdotes provided by interviewees. There are some good suggestions on how to deal with inevitable questions from kids and their peers, how to teach your child to embrace his/her background, and how to keep the lines of communication open.

ABC says

This book is geared to parents of kids who are multi-racial or parents of kids who are transracially adopted, but it is good reading for anyone who is interested in race issues.

My only complaint was that the author stresses the importance of family and telling your child "family is forever", but doesn't give advice if one doesn't have a good family setting for the child, which I think is important in this age when divorce is common.

Jessica says

I learned a lot from this book, but as a prospective adoptive parent, I did skip over large sections that seemed to pertain only to families created through parents having multiracial children by birth. For that group, I'm sure it is an even better resource. Much of the book does transfer over to multiracial adoptive families though.

Early in the book the author goes through multiple age ranges and how children of those particular ages understand and conceptualize race. This will be helpful as our child goes through these stages. I also connected with the various sections devoted to being a family that stands out and somehow invites uninvited questions from strangers about ones family and how it was created. People will undoubtedly touch our child's hair and comment on their features. The author suggests a statement such as "Aren't all children

beautiful?" in response to strangers (or anyone) commenting on the features that make our child different from others in the community.

The author spends a chapter or so near the end discussing the community in which multiracial families live. I've thought a lot about this because we may have little to no choice in where we end up geographically. Her rather superficial research suggests that it is possible to overcome the lack of diversity in your community by 1. preparing (through role-playing, etc.) our family for racism, and 2. not moving, allowing our child to grow up in the same community and thus have a stable friend support system. Access to other multiracial families also seems to be incredibly important. There is a really good list of things to think about in terms of the policies of your local school district and how to help them in areas they may be lacking.

One thing about the book that bugged me throughout was her rather constant focus on race being a construct of humans, lacking biological support. This just simply isn't the current thought. There is no reason to believe there is not a genetic basis for race.

Joan says

Bad. Didn't finish.

Camelia Rose says

This book is mostly a collection of interviews of people from multi-racial background, their experiences in dealing with racism and identity issues. It is roughly organised by age. The book also includes some analysis of American society. I am a little disappointed because I was looking for a practical parental guidebook in the fashion of How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk. Having said that, I still find it an informative book. Here is what I've learned:

1. Parents themselves must have the right attitude of races.
2. Color-blind is bad. Parents must discuss race issues with their kids openly.
3. Must help children to build a strong sense of self. Teach them both cultures. Multi-racial is good, a bridge to cultures, you can be both, etc..
4. Parents must stand up for children and must teach children to stand up for themselves when facing discriminations. Respond to teasing with wits rather than fists.

Some are quite common-sense, right?

PS: the writer herself has two mixed-raced kids by birth but the book also contains interviews from families with mixed-raced kids by adoption.

Pghgranola says

written by a parent raising Hapa children, so she can honestly appreciate the complexity of such a situation.

one of the few books, that i have found, that approaches the subject in terms of preschoolers. most other books tackle the issue with grade-school ages & up.

Rick says

This book was incredibly revealing about the possible future of a multiracial child that we might adopt might have -- the cruel questions in the supermarket as toddlers, the cruel racism of the teenage years, the unforgiving questions of the 5-8 years from peers and teachers. We will be prepared and train ourselves for creating a strong sense of multiracial identity with our child -- like chocolate ice cream and vanilla -- mixed together, but sooooo much more complicated.

Abigail says

This book is written by a white woman who's married to a Japanese-American man and has two biracial children. She uses some of her own experience raising her children, as well lots of stories and ideas from other parents and children, to talk about what parents can do to raise their multicultural or transracially adopted children to become confident and competent adults. It's a very thoughtfully written book, as well as well-researched, as shown through the personal testimonies that appear all throughout the book. I think it's an important read, not just for parents (or parents-to-be) of multiracial children, but for educators, caregivers and anyone who interacts with children and young adults. It addresses many theories and ideologies, and also includes the input of many "professionals" in this field.

Jenny says

In a world where the once-rigid lines of race are becoming (thankfully) more blurred, Donna does a great job addressing this question. What is it about human nature that desires to fit other in "nice, neat compartments" so we can feel secure about ourselves? This is a book for anyone who does not fit into a nice, neat compartment...and also for anyone who desires to know a multiracial's experience.

Crystal says

I would recommend this book. As the parent of multiracial children, I saw a lot of my family's experiences in it.

Lynn says

I had high hopes for this book, but the suggestions are really obvious and can be summarized as "communicate with your kids." This book also seems very focused on issues that parents face in very homogenous areas. I live in a fairly diverse city, but imagine we will still face issues and was hoping this

book would help us prepare for some of them. The topic is a good one, but the content seriously misses the mark.
