

The promotion of anti-racism in White children:

Parents' color-blind attitudes interact with parents' implicit racial bias to predict children's race-based sympathy.

THE GIST: This study examined how parents' color-blind racial ideology and implicit racial bias affects children's race-based sympathy. Color-blind racial ideology is the idea that race doesn't matter, and all people are the same. This can be harmful because it doesn't acknowledge the many race-based disparities in our society. Implicit racial bias refers to parents' underlying attitudes about race. The specific color-blind racial attitudes we studied were "denial of blatant racial issue," "denial of White privilege," and "denial of institutional racism." The children we studied watched four videos in which a White child bullied/teased either a Black or White child. They reported their feelings of sympathy towards the victims after each video.

THE TAKEAWAY: What children observe from their parents' unspoken behavior can be more impactful to their understanding of race than verbal attitudes, especially when parents avoid discussions about race.