

# RAISING CHILDREN IN OUR DIVERSE WORLD

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TRANSRACIAL FAMILY LIVING BY LESLIE COKER



# COKER FAMILY

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- Foster parents to 3 boys
- Khai was adopted in October 2019
- Since then we have not taken a full time placement. Working on our families mental health/physical health, building trust, and enjoying our new puppy.



# WHY SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT RACE?

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- This training is for everyone!
- In foster care information class they helped us understand all the things that would change/ be lost for that child. Culture could be one of those things that is very important.
- Normality = The state of being usual, typical, or expected
- Post adoption culture shock. Let's get ahead of the game and make change now.
- Black/White, Hispanic, South Korea, Romania and China

# IS LOVE TECHNICALLY COLOR BLIND?

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- It is never too early to start talking about race
- Studies show that at 6 months old a child can recognize different skin colors.
- At 2.5 years old children prefer playmates who are similar in race and gender.
- By age 3 children in U.S, associate some racial groups with negative traits.



- “Avoiding conversations about race sends a message that there’s something off-limits, and even bad, about racial differences. In the absence of these conversations, she said, silence is powerful- If they hear nothing about race, they figure out that there’s something different about the topic. And that difference can become imbued with negativity.” Dr. Wanjiku Njoroge
- Articles- American Psychological Association, Yale New
- How should we start talking about race? Lets ask Elmo ;)
- Some phrases can be more harmful than helpful
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk\\_HYAiS26l](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk_HYAiS26l)

# WHERE DO I START?

- Diversify your home
  - Books
  - Posters/pictures/amazon -ohhappydani
  - Dolls/action figures
  - Music/Music videos
  - Shows/movies
  - Puzzles
  - Food
  - Flags/Maps
- A lot of these things are free- get creative with what you already have.
- Education yourself
- IG accounts- Therapyredeemed, wreckageandwonder, Angieadoptee, \_heytra
- Books and Podcasts



# GETTING UNCOMFORTABLE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

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- Pursue friendships with people of different race - ask questions, be humble, and listen
- Be bold/humble at library and park with people
- Restaurants/Grocery stores/Barbers
- Examine- neighborhood, church, school, sports
- Push through language barriers and uncomfortable conversations



# WHY DOES THIS ALL MATTER

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- Foster and Adoption usually has a lot of loss and trauma. We can fight to keep their culture apart of their forever story and try to minimize that loss.
- Listen to adoptees and their experience
- We can all benefit from being more diverse
- Trying to prevent a future identity crisis
- Normalcy

