

What We Believe



Illustrated by Caryn Davidson

Written by Laleña Garcia

A BLACK LIVES MATTER
Principles Coloring Book

BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL



Black Lives Matter At School is a national coalition of educators organizing for racial justice in education. We encourage all educators, students, parents, unions, and community organizations to join our annual week of action during the first week of February each year.

Using this book

Written by Laleña Garcia - Illustrated by Caryn Davidson
Text translated from www.blacklivesmatter.com/about/what-we-believe

We hope for students to connect these principles to personal experiences, and for educators to use the curriculum resources available on www.blacklivesmatteratschool.com to supplement the drawing and writing prompts included in this book.

How to talk to young children about the Black Lives Matter

Guiding Principles *By Laleña Garcia*

As we think about discussing big ideas with little people, we consider age-appropriate language so that our students or children can grasp the concepts we're introducing and incorporate these ideas and language into their own thinking and conversation. While we as adults know that lynchings, such as Emmett Till's, and other acts of horrific violence helped trigger the actions we now know as the Civil Rights Movement, similarly to the way police brutality has sparked the Black Lives Matter Movement and the Movement for Black Lives, we are able to speak of the goals and successes of the Civil Rights Movement with young children without exposing them to the violence that preceded it. We can do the same when discussing the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Although adults can obviously talk about any of the principles (and many of us already do) without mentioning the Movement for Black Lives, we can also include the movement as a group of people who want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, regardless of the color of their skin. We can say something along the lines of, "The Civil Rights Movement, with people we know about, like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, worked to change laws that were unfair. The Black Lives Matter Movement is made up of people who want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, because, even though many of those laws were changed many years ago, some people are still not being treated fairly." Linking the principles of Black Lives Matter to the ideas we use in our classrooms on a regular basis helps children to understand the connections between justice and equity on a large scale to their own lives and individual actions.

The idea of adults hurting others is frightening to young children, and I would not discuss this kind of violence with our youngest children. Instead, as we focus on fairness and equity, the Principles give us language to do so. After each principle, I've suggested some language you might want to use when talking to young children. Whenever possible, make connections to children's lived experience, in your classroom, your home, or out in the world.

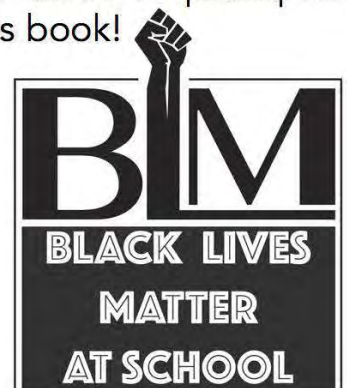
Infusing These Principles Into Our Lives & Our Work

This book is designed to support teachers, students, parents and families in their conversations about race and the core values of the Black Lives Matter movement. This book was created as part of a larger movement of Black Lives Matter At School educators and organizers. To learn more about the events and demands affiliated with the BLM-At-School week of action and national movement, visit the sites below. Please share any lessons, art, writing and activities that you engage in as you explore these 13 principles with the contacts below, and stay tuned for a published version of this book!



www.blacklivesmatteratschool.com
[@BLMAtSchool](https://twitter.com/BLMAtSchool)

NYC folks – Contact our local group at
blmeduny@gmail.com and follow us:
[@blm_edu_ny](https://twitter.com/blm_edu_ny)



UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACK



There are lots of different kinds of people and one way that we're different is the color of our skin. It's important to make sure that all people are treated fairly, and that's why we, and lots of other people all over the country and the world are part of the Black Lives Matter movement.

UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACK

What are some things about yourself that you are proud of?



DIVERSITY



Different people do different things and have different feelings. It's so important that we have lots of different kinds of people in our community and that everyone feels safe.

DIVERSITY

Think about your friends. What are some of the ways you are different from them?



EMPATHY



It's so important to think about how other people feel, because different people have different feelings. Sometimes it helps to think about how you would feel if the same thing that happened to your friend happened to you. Another way to say that is empathy.

EMPATHY

What is something you learned from someone who is different from you?



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



We know that if you hurt somebody, you have to help them feel better; you can't just say, "Sorry," and walk away. We also know that it's important for kids to be able to make a better choice another time, and it's grownups' job to help them make better choices and to give them chances to do that.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Think of a time you worked out a problem with another person. How did you make sure everyone was taken care of?



LOVING ENGAGEMENT



It's so important to make sure that we are always trying to be fair and peaceful, and to engage with other people (treat other people) with love. We have to keep practicing this so that we can get better and better at it.

LOVING ENGAGEMENT

Think of a time you worked hard to make sure you were fair and peaceful with another person. What helped you be able to keep practicing justice and peace?



BLACK FAMILIES

DIVERSITY



There are lots of different kinds of families; what makes a family is that it's people who take care of each other. It's important to make sure that all families feel welcome.

BLACK FAMILIES

What is different and special about each member of your family?



BLACK WOMEN



There are some people who think that women are less important than men. We know that all people are important and have the right to be safe and talk about their own feelings.

BLACK WOMEN

Who are some women, girls, or femmes that you value?

What have you learned from them?



QUEER AFFIRMING



**Everybody has the right to choose who they love
and the kind of family they want by listening to
their own heart and mind.**

QUEER AFFIRMING

Who are some of the people you love?



TRANSGENDER AFFIRMING



Everybody has the right to choose their own gender by listening to their own heart and mind. Everyone gets to choose if they are a girl or a boy or both or neither or something else, and no one else gets to choose for them.

TRANSGENDER AFFIRMING

How do you feel when someone else tells you what
"girls should do" or "boys should do"?



GLOBALISM



Globalism means that we are thinking about all the different people all over the world, and thinking about the ways to keep things fair everywhere.

GLOBALISM

What do you hope for other children and families around the world? What questions do you have for them?



BLACK VILLAGES



There are lots of different kinds of families; what makes a family is that it's people who take care of each other; those people might be related, or maybe they choose to be family together and to take care of each other. Sometimes, when it's lots of families together, it can be called a village.

BLACK VILLAGES

Who are the people you who feel like family to you, even if you're not related?



INTERGENERATIONAL



It's important that we have spaces where people of different ages can come together and learn from each other. Another way to say that is intergenerational.

INTERGENERATIONAL

Who are the people you care about and learn from who are older and younger than you?



COLLECTIVE VALUE




Everybody is important, and has the right to be safe and happy. Another way to say that is collective value.

COLLECTIVE VALUE

What are some things you can do in your everyday life to make sure that everyone around you feels loved, appreciated, and safe?



Black Lives Matter When We...



THE 13 BLACK LIVES MATTER GUIDING PRINCIPLES

COLLECTIVE VALUE	Valuing all Black lives, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status or location
DIVERSITY	Acknowledging, respecting and celebrating difference(s) and commonalities
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	Intentionally building and nurturing a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that creates justice for all in restorative, not depleting, ways
GLOBALISM	Seeing ourselves as part of the global Black family and understanding how we are impacted or privileged by our positioning in the world
BLACK VILLAGES	Disrupting the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and "villages" that collectively care for one another
BLACK WOMEN	Building a Black women affirming space free from sexism, misogyny, and male-centeredness
LOVING ENGAGEMENT	Embodying and practicing justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements with one another.
EMPATHY	Practicing empathy by engaging comrades with the intent to learn about and connect with their contexts.
QUEER AFFIRMING	Freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking to create a queer-affirming network
TRANSGENDER AFFIRMING	Embracing and making space for trans brothers and sisters to participate and lead, while being self-reflexive and doing the work required to dismantle cis-gender privilege and uplift Black trans folk
UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACK	In affirming that Black Lives Matter, we need not qualify our position. Loving and desiring freedom and justice for ourselves is a necessary prerequisite for wanting the same for others
BLACK FAMILIES	Making our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children and dismantle patriarchal practices
INTERGENERATIONAL	Fostering an intergenerational, communal network free from ageism

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/what-we-believe/>

WEEK OF ACTION DEMANDS

- ★ **END ZERO TOLERANCE** RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN ALL SCHOOLS
- ★ **HIRE BLACK TEACHERS**
- ★ **MANDATE BLACK HISTORY & ETHNIC STUDIES**
- ★ **FUND COUNSELORS NOT COPS**

BLACK

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MATTER

AT SCHOOL

WWW.BLACKLIVESMATTERATSCHOOL.COM



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