

White children's empathy-related responding and prosocial behavior toward White and Black children.

THE GIST: Racism and White supremacy continue to be major issues in the U.S., yet research rarely focuses on those who benefit from these systems - especially young White children. Understanding how racism or anti-racism develops early in life is crucial for promoting meaningful change. This study examined how young White children respond to Black and White peers in terms of empathy, kindness, and fairness. Research suggests that developing empathy and a sense of justice in childhood can lay the foundation for anti-racist attitudes later in life, especially when supported by anti-bias education and inclusive socialization.

THE TAKEAWAY: The findings from this study highlight the importance of exploring how biases form and change with age to foster anti-racist development early on. Teaching children empathy, fairness, and awareness of racial bias from a young age can help build a more just and equitable society.