

# Parents and Caregivers' Information Sheet

4th to 6th grade – 2024

## IDENTITIES AS PUZZLE PIECES

### WHAT IS INTERSECTIONALITY?

Each person is made up of a variety of identity markers: age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, ability, culture, economic status, social class, education/level of education, etc. An individual is the amalgamation of all his identities: what we call intersectionality. The intersection of a person's multiple identities gives them a unique experience. The way identities intersect and overlap can place a person in a position of privilege or oppression without asking for it.

### WHY IDENTITY AS PUZZLE PIECES?

The idea behind puzzle pieces comes from the fact that there are multiple factors that make up our identity. Whether it be age, environment or a person's culture, our identity is based on a culmination of these different points. Our identity shapes the way we view the world, how we react, and how we navigate everyday life.

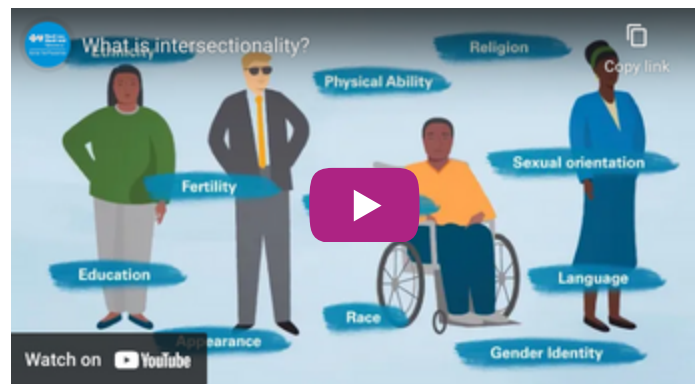
In discussing identity, it is important to link culture. Culture is the set of factors that bring together a group of individuals. For example, people who share a language or a religion. Our families are often times an attachment to our cultures. When a person attaches themselves to the principles of a culture, it is known as being their cultural identity.

### WHY TALK ABOUT INTERSECTIONALITY IN PRE-ADOLESCENCE?

Pre-adolescence is a time of transition and discovery of one's own identity. Therefore, it is important to guide and give young people space to explore their personal identity. According to the person's context, their identity can change and adapt, which is crucial. This is also the age in which young people begin to develop a sense of belonging to their culture, which reinforces the importance to discuss multiculturalism in our communities and especially in our schools.

Mais surtout, il faut éviter de réduire une personne aux identités auxquelles elle appartient.  
In order to address intersectionality, it is essential to understand the identity markers of others and how this affects their experience of the world. Also, reducing a person to their identities must be avoided.

### VIDEO : INTERSECTIONALITY



Kimberlé Crenshaw adopts the term to describe the experience of African-American women, who face both racism and sexism. This video gives a slight overview of the term,

## KEY TERMS ON INTERSECTIONALITY AND RACISM

- **Racism** : Racism is the discrimination and prejudice expressed against people based on their race or ethnicity. This can be presented through social contexts, practices, and systems.
- **Privilege** : Where the social positioning represents the advantages and exemptions that someone from a dominant social group may benefit from. Privilege is a level of power associated with certain identity markers, which is not accessible (or much more difficult) to an individual who does not fall into these identity categories. Members of privileged social groups (by birth or acquisition) may consciously or unconsciously exploit their privilege and discriminate/oppress marginalized people.
- **Stereotype** : Stereotypes are generalizations or exaggerations that we have of each member of a group. When we have stereotypes about people based on their race or ethnic group, for example, we do not take into account their individual differences. Stereotypes also have the power to affect the way some groups are treated: harmful assumptions, rather than truthful information about a person, can justify denial of education, employment, housing, and other opportunities.
- **Inclusion** : Inclusion is important to promote a society that celebrates differences and helps one another towards a common goal: a diversified society.

## HOW CAN I BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL FOR MY CHILD?



### **Listen.**

Be open to listening to experiences of racism without judgement. We need to listen to understand the impact of racism and bring positive change



### **Understand privilege.**

Use your privilege to speak on behalf of others and giving others a chance to express themselves. Question the behaviour, not the person. We can all learn, change, and grow.



### **Admit to mistakes.**

Mistakes will happen, regardless of our intentions. Recognize that what you have said or done may be racist, and continue the path towards changing for the better.



### **Learn.**

Research information about racism and experiences that are different from your own (for example, books, movies, podcasts). Share what you learn with others around you.



### **Develop your vocabulary.**


Start with the basics and learn the terms to better understanding the impacts of racism and how to talk about it.



### **Get involved.**

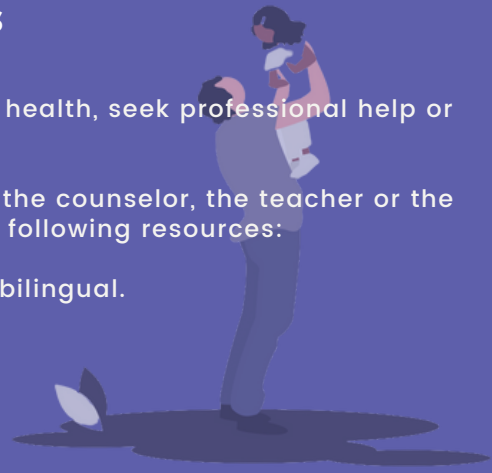
Attach yourself to local anti-racism movements (for example, in your child's school and/or in your community) and discover what you can do to prevent and fight against racism.

## Resources


 **Important!** If you are concerned about your child's health, seek professional help or call the helplines listed below.

Do not hesitate to communicate with the school staff: the counselor, the teacher or the principal. Your family doctor can also help, as can the following resources:

- **Kids Help Phone:** to confide, 24/7. Anonymous and bilingual.  
Toll free number: 1 800-668-6868  
Website: [kidshelpphone.ca](http://kidshelpphone.ca)



## Tools for reporting

 **Important !** If your child has experienced discrimination at school, EraseBC allows you to report it to the Ministry of Education of British Columbia.

- **Erase BC:** reporting tool for discrimination at school. Anonymous and bilingual.  
Website : <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

### RESSOURCES EN FRANÇAIS

[Des ressources pour mieux comprendre l'antiracisme.](#) Bienvenue CSF

[Résilience BC. Mettre fin au racisme et à la haine : Votre droit. Votre responsabilité](#)

[Lexique pour l'antiracisme, l'amnistie internationale Canada francophone](#)



### RESSOURCES EN ANGLAIS

[Podcast: Intersectionality matters](#)

[Resilience BC, Anti-racism Network. End Racism and Hate: Your Right. Your Responsibility.](#)

[What is Intersectionality ? - Kimberlé Crenshaw](#)

### Contact us:

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