

Building Teen Respect for Diversity

Respecting diversity involves understanding and valuing the perspectives from all backgrounds.

Respecting diversity involves understanding and valuing the perspectives, behaviors, and needs of people from all backgrounds. The ability to value, respect, and acknowledge the identities, backgrounds, and differences of others contributes to a more tolerant society. As society becomes more diverse, your adolescent will be exposed to people from different backgrounds. To help your teen navigate our changing society, teach them about the value of tolerance and diversity.

Talk about stereotypes, differences, and hurtful behavior. The world is a great tapestry of diversity made up of people with different personalities, backgrounds, beliefs, religions, genders, sexual preferences, and socioeconomic statuses. All of these groups have encountered negative stereotypes, and it's important to talk with your teen about how these labels and assumptions affect others. You may want to point out a stereotype related to your family or background. This can also be a good time to talk about the effect that hurtful comments on social media or cruel actions have on others, especially when it comes to teenagers who are excluded or bullied because they are different. You can also use this as an opportunity to discuss how diversity enhances our world, and how being tolerant and accepting of others can help them learn more about the world.

Documentaries and critical films can teach your teen about tolerance. Another way to build your teen's ability to respect differences is by watching documentaries that feature people from all walks of life. These types of films often deal with social issues, conflicts, and problems, and they can be useful tools for starting a discussion about tolerance. Films like "The Kite Runner," "Refugee Like Me," and "Poverty in America" offer social commentary about diversity and tolerance and can help teach your teen about respecting differences. You may also want to ask your teen about languages or places that they are interested in learning more about. This can be a great time to begin a discussion about studying abroad in college and the value of learning another language or immersing himself or herself in another culture.

Adapted from: <https://www.today.com/parenting-guides/building-teens-respect-diversity-t179059>



PHARR-SAN JUAN-ALAMO ISD
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS