Children’s understanding of race evolves.

**Infants**
- Distinguish white and black

**3-5 years**
- Categorize using labels
- “White” “Black”

**6-8 years**
- Understand social aspect

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**The Take-Home**
Children recognize that their race is part of who they are and how others see them. They absorb ideas about race from the people and information around them. Children use these ideas to figure out how they should feel about and treat others.

**Science Says**
- Race is meaningful in our social world and racism still exists today.
- Children are aware of race. They observe and integrate ideas about race from those around them. These ideas are reflected in their own attitudes and behaviors.
- Children form racial identities. They recognize that their race and racial group is part of who they are and how others see them.
- Research suggests that not talking about race with children increases racist thinking and racism. Racial silence will never create racial equality, but talking about race can.

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**Try it at Home**
- Take time to reflect on your own view of race. What feelings do you have when you hear or think about race? Consider how you respond to racial stereotypes.
- Participate in cultural events around your city. Learn the histories, cultures, and experiences of those in your community. Be intentional about broadening your perspective.
- Talk to your child about their own racial identity. What do they like about being part of their racial group? Is there anything they find hard about being part of their racial group? Or how do they think things would change if they were a different race or ethnicity?

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Want to Learn More?
modules.ilabs.uw.edu/module/race-today-what-kids-know-as-they-grow/
Questions? ilabsout@uw.edu
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