

## Never Too Young To Learn About Racism

Myth – Children do not see differences. In children’s eyes, people are just people. There is no such thing as different races, there is only the human race.

Fact – At an early age, children not only observe and recognize differences, they already are learning to stereotype and develop biases and prejudices about groups of people.

- according to a 2003 Ekos survey, 46 percent of Aboriginal people living off-reserve reported being a victim of racism or discrimination at least once over the previous two years;
- research by Ipsos-Reid (2002) suggested that more than six-out-of-ten Canadians (61%) think that racism separates Aboriginal peoples from the rest of society; and
- roughly the same proportion (59%) felt that Aboriginal peoples are discriminated against by other Canadians.

Challenge – What role should families, community members and educators play in a young child’s life, to teach them about differences in a way that fosters an attitude to value and welcome diversity and to eradicate racism?

RAD, respecting and accommodating differences is an educational framework that incorporates strategies from anti-racism, diversity and multicultural pedagogy. The underlying principles of this framework along with a “hands on” application of the RAD pedagogy will be highlighted in this workshop.