



# HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE

Source: Melinda Wenner Moyer

AIM FOR A DIALOGUE, NOT A LECTURE.

No matter how you talk about what happened, pause regularly to ask for input or questions



TALK ABOUT RACISM. WITH LITTLE KIDS, FRAME IT IN TERMS OF FAIRNESS.

If you're not sure how to talk to kids about racism, consider tapping into the concept of fairness, because if there's one thing kids care about, it's fairness



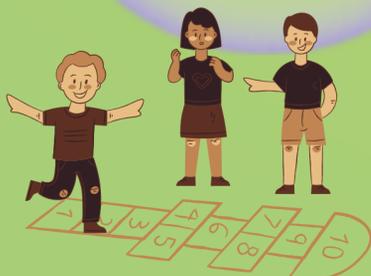
EXPLAIN HOW RACISM LEADS TO POLICE BRUTALITY.

A simple way to describe police brutality is by saying that police officers are meant to protect us but that in some cases, they abuse that power.



WITH OLDER KIDS, TALK ABOUT SYSTEMS AND RULES.

Talk about how the police force is a system with rules and habits that police are expected to follow. In the police force, some rules and habits are racist.



HOW TO EXPLAIN TO A CHILD WHY MOST OF THE POLICE OFFICERS WHO BEAT TYRE NICHOLS WERE BLACK:

Kids may understand racism as typically being white-on-Black, but of course it's more complicated than that. The Black officers were operating within the police system, where they may have felt pressure to fit in and behave in racist ways.



WHEN TALKING TO BLACK KIDS, EXPLAIN WHAT THEY CAN DO TO TRY TO STAY SAFE.

Find a balance between reactive (negative) conversations about oppression and proactive (positive) conversations about hope and change.

