

Raising Race Conscious Children

Testimonials & information about our trainer

Testimonial from past participant:

“Raising Race Conscious Children presented at our school last night and parents here are talking about all the rich and thoughtful material shared. The workshop was thorough, organized—an engaging and rewarding blend of information and “turn and talk” interaction. The delivery was warm, friendly, and also passionate, exhibiting a clear investment and commitment to this work. By the time it was over parents felt enlightened, supported, and eager to learn more about this important subject matter.” **Parent attendee**

Raising Race Conscious Children at P.S. 29

Raising Race Conscious Children worked with P.S. 29, an NYC public school located in Brooklyn’s District 15, over three years.

In 2017-2018, teachers participated in a two-part workshop introducing the concept of pro-active, race-conscious conversation around race in the classroom. Families participated in a parallel workshop reflecting similar content.

In 2018-2019, professional development continued with teachers as a full staff, digging deeper into responsive scenarios around race and examining classroom curriculum. In collaboration with P.S. 29 leadership, RRCC supported grade-level teams using protocols to examine specific units or lessons. Also, P.S. 29 leadership participated in a Race-Conscious Leaders program with colleagues from other NYC schools.

In 2019-2020, P.S. 29 leadership supported grade-level teams to use Raising Race Conscious Children protocols to examine and discuss scenarios around race in the classroom every month. Raising Race Conscious Children continued to support various grade-level teams to deepen their inquiry around particular lessons or units. Finally, P.S. 29’s Para-Professionals who had been unable to attend previous years’ full staff professional development sessions, participated in a series of customized workshops.

In the words of P.S. 29’s Principal, “Raising Race Conscious Children equipped P.S. 29 with the tools to engage in deep-thinking work around race and identity. Through the use of protocols, we were able to create a ‘safe space’ to candidly share sensitive issues and topics. We used real-life examples that lived in our building about interactions among students or with families and role-played ways that we could respond with intentionality and application of the practices that we learned through Raising Race Conscious Children. Today, as we engage in restorative circle work, there’s no doubt that the foundation with RRCC had already been laid for us. The years of RRCC work is what has allowed us to facilitate courageous conversations as a staff and with our students. We are indebted to RRCC for truly helping us shift our practices and consciousness around anti-racist work.

ABOUT THE TRAINER:



Sachi Feris: Workshop facilitator

My name is [Sachi Feris](#) and I am a White, Jewish woman of Russian, Polish, Lebanese, Syrian, and Cuban descent. I am a mother to my daughter, born in 2012, and my two sons, born in 2015 and 2017. My husband is from Argentina, so we speak Spanish as a family (I am not a native speaker).

I have a B.A. from Bates College, an M.A. in Sociology and Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and an M.P.A. in Public Policy from Baruch College's School of Public Affairs. As an educator, I have been dedicated to social justice education and bringing issues of race and equity to our youngest children since 2000. I am the founder of Border Crossers, a nonprofit dedicated to racial equity and I have taught Spanish part-time at several NYC elementary schools.

For more information, contact Mary Piccirillo at mpiccirillo@ywcannj.org or 201- 345-1894

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