6 Principles of Black Lives Matters in Schools

Talking to young children about the Guiding Principles of the Movement for Black Lives

By Laleña Garcia (With extended definitions added by Buffalo Public Schools)

Guiding Principles	Child Friendly Language
Restorative Justice	**We know that if you hurt somebody, you have to help them feel better; you cannot just say, "Sorry," and walk away. We also know that it is important for kids to be able to make a better choice another time, and it is grownups' job to help them make better choices and to give them chances to do that. Another way to say that is restorative justice.**
Empathy	**It is so important to think about how other people feel, because different people have different feelings. Sometimes it helps to think about how you would feel if the same thing that happened to your friend happened to you. Another way to say that is empathy.**
Loving Engagement	**It is so important to make sure that we are always trying to be fair and peaceful, and to engage with other people (treat other people) with love. We have to keep practicing this so that we can get better and better. Another way to say that is loving engagement.**
Diversity	**Different people do different things and have different feelings. It is so important that we have lots of different kinds of people in our community and that everyone feels safe. Another way to say that is diversity.**
Collective Value	**Everybody is important, and has the right to be safe and happy, no matter what they believe, where they are from, or who they love. Another way to say that is collective value.**
Black Men*	**There are some people that believe Black men are less important than other men. It is important that Black and Brown boys are not suspended and punished because of the color of their skin. We also want to make sure that Black men are not arrested, hurt, or killed because they have Black or Brown skin.**

*Added by Buffalo Public Schools

All principles in bold are included in the Anti-Racist, Emancipation lessons of the Buffalo Public Schools