

“The Talk”

In most American families, “The Talk” has traditionally referred to a parent/child discussion about sex, protection and physical and emotional maturity. However, in Black families there is a **second “Talk”** that parents have with their children that is equally...if not even more important. That talk is a discussion about **how their children should conduct themselves when confronted or approached by authority figures (typically the police) and how to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation and return home safely.**

Please take some time today to take a look at one or more of the articles, books, and video resources that are offered here. There are examples of actual family conversations that African-American parents have had with their children as well as statistical data and research that reveal why “The Talk” is necessary.

Resources:

Books for Adults:

- Between the World and Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- A Letter to My Sons, by Imani Perry
- “The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love, and Truth”, by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson

Books for Children:

- Momma, Did You Hear the News?, by Sonya Whittaker Gragg, MSW, Illustrated by Kim Holt, ages 5-10
- Something Happened In Our Town, by Marianne Celano, ages 4-8
- Ghost Boys, Jewell Parker Rhodes, ages 10 and up

Articles Sourced:

- “What Data on 20 Million Traffic Stops Can Tell Us About Driving While Black,” by John Sides, The Washington Post, 2018.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/07/17/what-data-on-20-million-traffic-stops-can-tell-us-about-driving-while-black/>
- “Opinion: As a black parent, I need to update ‘The Talk’ I have with my kids about police,” by Judy Belk, Los Angeles Times, 2019.
<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-11-03/african-americans-police-talk-kids-botham-jean-atatiana-jefferson>

- “Having ‘The Talk’: How Families Prepare Black Children for Police Interactions,” by Erica Gunderson, WTTW News, 2020. <https://news.wttw.com/2020/06/08/having-talk-how-families-prepare-police-interactions>
- “The Talk: Racism in the United States,” Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Talk

Article With Internal Links and Examples of “The Talk” for Every Age Group:

- “Having ‘The Talk,’: Expert Guidance On Preparing Kids for Police Interactions,” Compiled by a child psychiatrist, a public defender, and a police officer, NPR, WBEZ Chicago, 2019. <https://www.npr.org/local/309/2019/08/27/754459083/having-the-talk-expert-guidance-on-preparing-kids-for-police-interactions>

Video Links:

- “Dear Child - When Black Parents Have to Give The Talk,” 2017. <https://youtu.be/Mkw1CetjWwl>
- “Black Americans Turn to Their Kids to Give the Talk,” 2019. <https://youtu.be/HX8zamQ5Yxw>
- “Black Parents Explain How to Deal With the Police,” 2020. <https://youtu.be/coryt8IZ-DE>
- “Black Parents Describe How They Approach ‘The Talk’ With Kids About Racism,” 2020. <https://youtu.be/UUsD1nvkRvQ>