



Brazelton Newborn Behavior International *Leaders in the Field*

Black Babies are Beautiful: Let's Talk about Skin Color

Eurnestine Brown, Ph.D.
Brazelton Touchpoints Center
Division of Developmental Medicine
Rosamund Stone Zander Translational Neuroscience Center
September 2, 2022

Today's Conversation

- Discussion about why skin color matters
- Recognize and appreciate the beauty in the skin color of deeply melanated infants, in our partnerships with Black mothers/birthing people, families and communities.
- Why representation and language matters during interactions and respectful engagement with deeply melanated Black babies and families.
- Proactive strategies
- Q/A

Today's Panelists



Dr. Aaron Doctor

OB/GYN, Resident Physician,
Morehouse School of Medicine



Mr. Chidiebere Ibe

Medical Illustrator and Creative
Director - Association of Future
African Neurosurgeons

In conversation with...



Director of Relational Equity and Belonging
Brazelton Touchpoints Center

Division of Developmental Medicine
Rosamund Stone Zander Translational
Neuroscience Center

Takeaways ...

- Skin Color matters.
 - Black Babies are Beautiful. Melanin is Beautiful.
 - See the beauty of deeply melanated, highly pigmented Black babies
 - Value Skin Color: Denial is detrimental
 - Vital to appreciate the beauty of skin color in deeply melanated infants during partnerships with Black mothers/birthing people, families and communities
- Representation matters
- Language matters

Resources...

Bajai, A. (2022) . A blood-oxygen detector without racial bias

Pulse oximeters can be thrown off by dark skin, which may have had deadly consequences in the pandemic. Engineers think they have a solution.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/07/05/opinion/blood-oxygen-detector-without-racial-bias/?event=event12>

Harvey, R. D., Tennial, R. E., & Hudson Banks, K. (2017). The Development and Validation of a Colorism Scale. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 43(7), 740–764.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0095798417690054>.

Iruka, I. U., Sims, J., & Forte, A. (2021). *Black parents and their babies: Attending to the first 1,000 days*. Chapel Hill, NC: Equity Research Action Coalition at the UNC Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute.

Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center. (2021). *Why Do We Focus on the Prenatal-to-3 Age Period? Understanding the Importance of the Earliest Years*. Child and Family Research Partnership, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. B.001.0121.

<https://pn3policy.org/resources/why-do-we-focus-on-the-prenatal-to-3-age-period-understanding-the-importance-of-the-earliest-years>

— Washington, H. A. (2008). *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*. Anchor Publishing.

Skin Tone Implicit Association Test (IAT)

Greenwald, A. G., McGhee, D. E., & Schwartz, J. K. L. (1998). Measuring individual differences in implicit cognition: The Implicit Association Test. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74, 1464-1480.

— Implicit Association Test: Skin-tone Task
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

Improving skin tone evaluation in machine learning.

<https://skintone.google/>

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/google-unveils-new-10-shade-skin-tone-scale-test-ai-bias-2022-05-11/>