

5 Ways to Teach our Muslim Children Tolerance

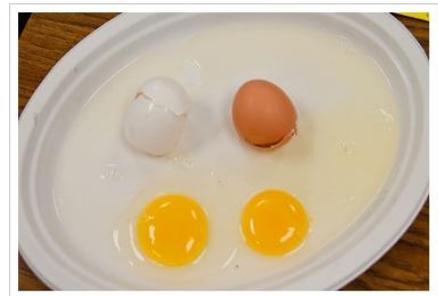
February is Black History Month or National African American History Month. Since 1976, every US president has dedicated this month to celebrate the achievements made by African Americans and recognize the central role African Americans have in U.S. History.

Almost every teacher in every school, in every grade in the United States, be it a public school or Islamic school, devotes several lesson plans to educate children on the importance of Black History Month. **Here's what you can do as a Muslim parent:** [\(Read More\)](#)

1. **Show Encouragement:** As Muslim parents we should always encourage our children to be respectful when learning about people's race and culture. Talk to your children about what they have learned in school and take special interest in the diversity projects they bring home. Remember, the best way for our children to teach others about the beauty of Islam is to first teach them how to love, respect, and care about others.
2. **Tie It Back to Islam:** Always try to tie in what your child is learning at school to Islamic teachings. Start by telling your child that Allah (swt) is the greatest creator and has intentionally created people with different skin tones, different languages, and different backgrounds. Explain that there are Muslims in almost every country in the world and that Allah loves a person based on their actions not their appearance.
3. **Follow the Sunnah:** When teaching your child about tolerance and diversity it is important to look to the Sunnah as an example. Teach your children about the beautiful way Rasulullah (s) met with others. Talk about his beloved friendship with Bilal ibn Rabah (R). Honor the esteemed Sahabah by learning about Bilal (R) background, his special qualities, and his contributions to Islam.
4. **Be a Role Model:** The best way to teach children important Islamic values is by being an example. Make an effort to read diverse children's stories at home. When visiting the Masjid or attending community events take time to talk to people from different backgrounds, include them in your conversations, or invite them to your home.
5. **Create Teachable Moments:** Small lessons can leave a large impact on your children. When teaching them about diversity and equality have your child try an egg experiment.

Give your child both a brown egg and a white egg. Have your child crack both eggs open (side by side) on a plate. Ask your child what they notice?

Or try one of the equality crafts below.



Equality Crafts

Craft 1: Peace Wreath



Materials	Process
Option 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction paper• Pencil, Scissors, Glue	Choose paper colors that represent different skin tones. Have your child trace and cut several hand prints on the multicultural paper. Glue hands together making a world shape.
Option 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multicultural Paint• Paint brush, white card stock, Scissors, Glue	This option works best if you have several children working together. Have each child use a paintbrush to paint their hand using one multicultural paint color. Then press the painted hand firmly onto the white cardstock. When dry, cut out hand prints and glue together making a world shape.
Option 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multicultural Markers• Plain paper, Scissors, Glue	Choose marker colors that represent different skin tones. Have your child trace, color, and cut several hand prints using the markers. Glue hands together making a world shape.
Making the Bow:	Punch two small holes at the bottom of the wreath to tie ribbon, yarn, or twine.
Resource:	http://www.mpmschoolsupplies.com/ideas/2617/peace-wreath-for-black-history-month/

Craft 2: Painted Dove – Part of black history month is to teach children about maintaining peace with others. In many communities the dove is a symbol for peace.

Materials:

- White Construction Paper **or** Card Stock **or** White Foam plate **or** 11 X 14 artist canvas
- Acrylic paint in rainbow colors
- Dove shaped template

Trace the dove shape template onto the construction paper (or card stock or canvas). Use your finger to stamp small dots randomly on the dove shape (one color at a time).

Note: Practice stamping with paint so that the final piece does not get smudged.

Note: Let one color dry before you start a new one.

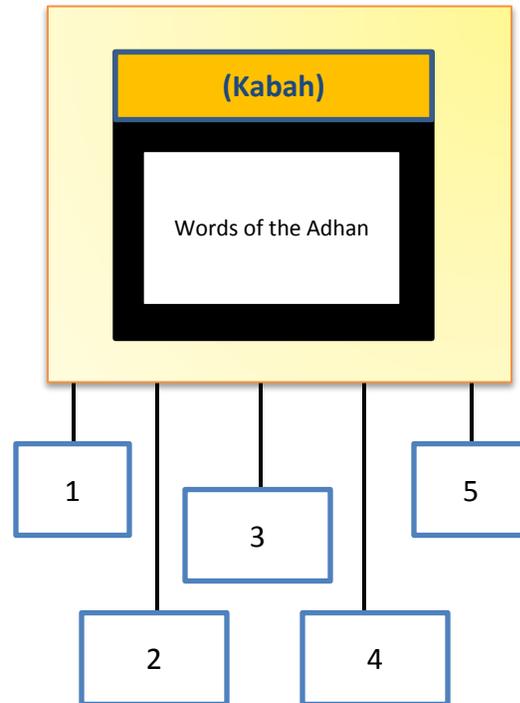
Resource: <http://www.busykidshappymom.org/fingerprint-dove-tutorial/>



Craft 3: Bilal (R) Mobile – A fun way to learn about an important person in history is to create a mobile.

Materials:

- White Card Stock
- Black Construction Paper
- 6 Index Cards
- Markers, crayons or color pencils
- Hole punch
- Pen, Glue, Yarn, Scissors



Step 1: Cut a large square out of black construction paper and Glue onto the card stock (this will be the Kabah).

Step 2: Use the index card to write the words of the Adhan and glue on the Kabah.

Step 3: Fill out the five index cards with information about Bilal (R). See *index card instructions*.

Step 4: Punch one hole at the top of each index card. Then punch five evenly spaced holes at the bottom of the large construction paper. Card stock

Step 5: Cut 5 different size pieces of yarn and tie one end to the cardstock and one end to each of the five index card.

Index Card Instructions: use front and back of card if needed

Card 1: Bilal (R) full name / the year he was born and died

Card 2: Bilal (R) brief background and special qualities

Card 3: draw a picture of Masjid al-Nabawi

Card 4: write out one hadith about Bilal (R)

Card 5: Bilal (R) contributions to Islam