



PARENTAL READINESS AND
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF
THE LAWYERS'
COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS

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NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Learning History</i>	1
<i>Director's Comments</i>	2
<i>PREP Resources</i>	2
<i>Tips</i>	3
<i>Sponsors Acknowledgment</i>	4

Learning History, Living History

February is marked by the celebration of Black History Month and Presidents' Day. These events honor important historical events and are a great opportunity to get your child excited about American history! Knowing the history of our country helps children think critically, understand current events, and promotes responsible citizenship. There are a number of fun, exciting ways for you and your child to learn about history, and many educational resources designed for kids and families. Learning the history of America will help your child know more about where they come from and how their country came to be, as well as helping them develop empathy and understandings of other communities and cultures.

Create conversations

Discussing with your child what he or she is learning can help you be more involved in your child's educational progress and expand their interest. Not every important part of American history is taught in classrooms and knowing what topics your child has already covered will give you ideas on what knowledge you can build upon or gaps you can fill! Black history, women's history, immigrant history, and Native American history are often overlooked subjects that are important to teach children so they understand how diverse and distinct cultures came together to create the United States. You can also make history personal -- encourage your child to ask older family members and friends about their experiences growing up in another generation,

and teach your child about how your family came to live where they are.

Explore museums and local landmarks

Many museums have programs for children and students, and these can be a fun and active way for children to learn about American history. Even if there is no museum close by, you and your child can visit a local landmark or historical site and learn more about the history of their own area. This is a great way to build a strong relationship between your child and their community, and create connections between what they learn in school and what has occurred in their own surroundings! MuseumsUSA has an [online museum locator tool](#) to help you find local museums, and the National Park Service offers a [list of National Historical Landmarks](#) by state on their website.



History on the books

Checking out history-focused books from the library is a fun and free way for children to learn about their country's history. Historical books come in all topics and reading levels -- [Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#) and [The Watsons Go to Birmingham](#) are award-winning fictional books about African-American history, the [Dear America](#) books tell the stories of fictional girls in important historical periods, and the [Who Was...?](#) series offers biographies on historical figures for younger children.



Director's Comments

In 2014 the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) found in its annual report that only 18% of eighth-graders performed at or above the Proficient level in U.S. history. This number is concerning from both an educational and social standpoint. Studies demonstrate that engaging with history causes students to develop empathy, evaluate and incorporate diverse perspectives, and become more informed citizens. With this in mind, history is an important tool for individual student success as well as improved community collaboration -- both of which are core goals of PREP's work.

While student achievement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) subjects is certainly important, the significance of the social sciences and humanities to students' personal and intellectual growth should not be underestimated. These fields improve interpersonal intelligence, and are essential to education that embraces diversity and encourages students to understand and care for one another. Just as parental involvement and school policies can help reduce bullying and discrimination in our schools, so can comprehensive multicultural education. In honor of Black History Month and Presidents Day, introduce your children to the historical figures who stood up for civil rights and liberties in the face of oppression and discrimination. These values go far beyond the classroom!

On January 31, 2017, PREP will expand its e-clinic to New York, allowing parents to connect with a volunteer attorney to help with questions they have related to their child's education.

Natasha Quiroga is PREP Manager and Senior Counsel on the Educational Opportunities Project.

www.PREPparents.org



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PREP Resources

NOW PLAYING...

VIDEO TUTORIALS

- ♦ *Parent Advocacy*
- ♦ *Navigating the School System*
- ♦ *Special Education*

www.youtube.com/prepparents

STATE-SPECIFIC PARENT GUIDES

- ♦ *On education law and policies*

www.prepparents.org/resources/for-parents/

RECORDED WEBINARS

- ♦ *Parent advocacy*
- ♦ *Mobilization*
- ♦ *Special Education Process*
- ♦ *School Discipline*
- ♦ *Bullying*

www.prepparents.org/webinar

Upcoming Events

NABE (National Association for Bilingual Education) 2017 Conference

February 22-25 | Dallas, TX

Advocating for the Educational Rights of English
Language Learners

Parental advocacy is critically important for English Learners (ELs) to succeed in school. Participants will learn the legal requirements for supporting ELs, including those with special needs, and what schools and districts should strive for. Participants will be introduced to effective advocacy tools to support parents of EL students.

<http://www.nabe-conference.com/index.html>

Have questions about special education, school discipline, English learners, Bullying, or discrimination-related issues? Are you a parent in California? Check our newly launched e-Clinic!

Prepparents.org/appointments



PEP TALK FROM PREP!

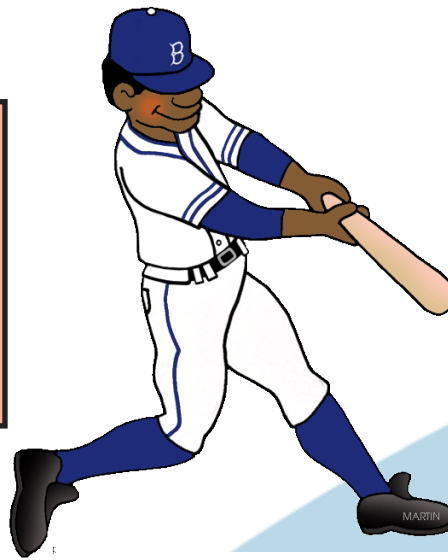
Tips for making history fun!

Have your child interview an older relative or community member about their childhood. Who was president when they were your child's age? What major historical events happened during their youth? What was school like back then?



February 20th is Presidents' Day! If you and your child have the day off, celebrate by visiting a monument, presidential library, landmark, or museum!

Connect it to their interests - does your child like music? Sports? Space? Find them a book on a historical figure that captures their interest, and have them tell you about it after they finish reading!



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