

Segregation Between Popular Girls and Non-Popular Girls

One Saturday morning, I was with my friend Asha in her family's car and her mom was driving us to our soccer game. We played some games and talked. Asha started to talk about how during park time, I always played with the "popular girls" and not her. When I heard that, it made me sad, embarrassed, sorry and had many more emotions. She also said how she felt left out but I did not realize that she felt that way because she was mostly playing with some other girls. Asha did not think that they were mean like the popular girls in shows and movies because she was also friends with them. She just wanted to play with me but I was almost always playing with my other friends. I thought back to one of the days in 3rd grade that I played with Maya, Lexie and Aurora aka the "popular girls". It was a great day to be outside. It wasn't too cold or too hot, it was just right. I remember looking up at the bright blue sky and there was not a cloud to be seen. As my class walked to the park my friend Lexie came up to me and said "Do you want to play with us?" so I replied "Yes". When recess time started, I remember looking over at Asha and she was playing with some other girls so I thought she was fine, but little did I know that Asha was feeling left out.

I said "I'm so sorry, I did not know you felt that way and if it happened again, just tell me. I promise I will play with you whenever you want me to. You just have to ask". Asha said "Okay".

I thought about what she said for the rest of the day. I wondered if anybody else I knew also felt like Asha. I could not imagine hurting anybody else. From that day forward, I decided that I would be much more careful with my actions and if I saw someone by themselves and looked sad, I would ask them if they wanted to play with me.

Racial Segregation In My School

It was the second day at my new school and I made a few new friends. However, I observed that all the girls in my class are either Hispanics or Blacks except for two girls, me and a girl named Anisa. I am $\frac{5}{8}$ Filipino, $\frac{1}{8}$ Polish and $\frac{2}{8}$ White, and Anisa is Bangladeshi. One thing that seemed weird to me was that all the Hispanic girls were hanging out together in a group and at the same time, all the Black girls were together in another group. Anisa played with the Black girls because one of the girls was her best friend. I didn't know who to play with and I did not want to have to choose. I played with the Black girls and at other times, with the Hispanics. It went on like that for most of the day. This made me wonder why do they play separately by their race? All the girls knew each other and they were friends but when it was park time they played separately. I just didn't get it.

One day, during park time, all the girls, which includes all Hispanic and Black girls, played soccer together against all the boys and the girls won!! All the girls came together and we made a great team. Little by little, all the girls played and talked together during park time. This made me realize that it's important that kids should play together regardless of their race or skin color. We may all look different on the outside but on the inside, we are all the same. If kids of different races stay separated, you will never know the fun that you are missing out on. I think the school and the teachers should encourage activities that promote all the kids' participation regardless of their race. This can also apply to adults. Parents should encourage their children to play with others regardless of their race or skin color. I believe that we can all do more fun and great things when we all work together.

Racial Segregation at DC Bilingual

The school that I go to is DC Bilingual Charter School. It is a bilingual school so we are taught in both English and Spanish. Our school campus is located at Riggs Road in Washington, D.C. When DC Bilingual was originally founded, about 80% of the kids in the whole school were Hispanics. However when they moved to the new campus, the percentage of Hispanics has decreased. Now, more White/non-Hispanic families have enrolled in the school. Currently, there are only about 60% Hispanic kids in the whole school. In Preschool and Pre-K, almost all the kids in the class are White and non-Hispanics. In a couple of years, when those kids grow up, the percentage of Hispanics will decrease even more. In 10 years, there will probably only be 20% percent of Hispanics in the whole school.

I know there is nothing wrong with White/Non-Hispanic students in a class but it just felt wrong that the amount of Hispanics in a bilingual Spanish school is decreasing. I believe it is good to have people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures in the classroom. Children gain a more complete understanding of the subject matter. It also teaches kids how to use their own strengths and points of view to contribute in a diverse working environment. I think that schools should only let in a certain amount of Whites, Hispanics, Blacks and more, so there can be a mix of all different races and give equal opportunities to everybody.