

How to Talk to Your Kids About Immigration

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It's a talk that many parents would rather avoid, but the topic is too important to ignore: immigration.

"A lot of parents don't have the luxury of avoiding these conversations. They have to talk as a matter of survival," says Jesse Hagopian, the first ethnic studies teacher at Seattle's [Garfield High School](#), a founding member of [Social Equity Educators](#) and a [Black Lives Matter at School](#) activist. "As long as there are families who can't escape the conversation, it is incumbent on all of us to have that talk about what we're going to do about it."

But where to begin?

Forty-five years ago, Alma Ramiro Alonzo immigrated to the U.S. from the Philippines with her family. Now a teacher at [Van Asselt Elementary School](#) in South Seattle, Alonzo often fosters conversations about immigration. At Van Asselt, [4 percent of the students identify as white and 43 percent are English language learners](#).

Here's where she starts when talking to kids about immigration: