

October 22 2024

# BLACK GENIUS<sup>TM</sup> PROFILE

My Child



# What is **BLACK GENIUS™**?

**Black Genius™** is the intrinsic brilliance of every child. It's limitless, luminous, and full of possibility. Black Genius™ is the recognition that everyone possesses unique strengths, perspectives, talents, and capabilities that, when acknowledged, supported, and celebrated, allow them to thrive academically and personally.

The Black Genius™ Framework grew from the wisdom of Black parents. Village of Wisdom recognized that Black parents knew what their children needed to thrive in classrooms and schools. Their insights became the Black Genius Framework, an evidence-based, parent generated and approved, liberatory approach to learning.

The Black Genius™ Framework includes six elements: Interest Awareness, Can-Do Attitude, Multicultural Navigation, Racial Identity, Selective Trust, and Social Justice. These elements capture what Black parents know our children need: spaces that spark their curiosity, build their confidence, affirm their identity, and prepare them to navigate the world around them.

The Black Genius™ Profile can be used to create ideal learning at home or school. Use it as a roadmap to create the learning environments where your child can fully be themselves and thrive.

# INTEREST AWARENESS

What is your child curious about?



**Interest Awareness** refers to the subjects, activities, and ideas that naturally grab a child's attention and curiosity.

Maybe your child loves animals, gets lost in art, or can't stop talking about outer space. These interests are opportunities for learning. When teachers connect lessons to what excites your child, school becomes relevant. A math problem about animal habitats or a writing assignment inspired by their favorite music can transform a task into an adventure.

## **My Child's Interest Awareness Genius:**

- Loves to play the violin, ride bikes, act, hike and stargaze.
- Budding artist whose medium of choice is drawing.
- Developing an interest in science, P.E., and competitive team sports.

# SELECTIVE TRUST

How does your child build genuine connection?



**Selective Trust** recognizes that children need to feel safe before they can learn.

When your child connects with someone they trust, it opens doors. They're more likely to ask questions, share ideas, and engage in learning. Trust looks different for everyone. What matters is that your child feels supported in building relationships their way. These connections make learning a space where they can be themselves.

## **My Child's Selective Trust Genius:**

- Mostly trusts his aunt, his older cousin, and his art teacher.
- Will decide to trust you if you support them through tough times.
- Trust earned and kept by showing him that you believe in him and letting him express himself.

# RACIAL IDENTITY

Who are your child's heroes?



**Racial Identity** is about helping your child to foster a strong, positive sense of self rooted in their culture, community, and history.

Building a strong racial identity gives your child a foundation to stand on. It helps them navigate the world, and gives them the strength to pursue their dreams. When your child feels good about being who they are, it can boost their self-esteem, their willingness to try new things, and their academic performance.

## **My Child's Racial Identity Genius:**

- Being Black to him means he feels honored that her ancestors gave their lives so she could enjoy more freedom.
- Most proud to be Black when he thinks of the soul food that his parents and grandmother cook during holidays.
- Malcolm X inspires him because he was a bold leader who wasn't afraid to speak up for his community.

# CAN-DO ATTITUDE

How does your child approach new or difficult tasks?



**Can-Do Attitude** celebrates your child's ability to take on challenges and grow from them.

When your child encounters a tough math problem or a tricky science experiment, a Can-Do Attitude helps them approach it with confidence. Instead of thinking "I can't do this," they're more likely to think "I can figure this out." This mindset turns setbacks into stepping stones.

## **My Child's Can-Do Attitude Genius:**

- Can overcome challenges with his times tables in Math with a classroom environment that promotes working with a partner and a teacher who uses songs or dances to teach lessons.
- Most productive when doing group work with his friends.
- Will show that she needs help by staring blankly during an activity and will typically look to his older sister for help.

# MULTICULTURAL NAVIGATION

How does your child interact with people from different backgrounds?



**Multicultural Navigation** recognizes that your child already navigates multiple worlds, from home to school to their wider community.

This is about how your child understands and appreciates different perspectives, traditions, and ways of communicating. This might look like exploring how math is used in various cultures or studying literature from diverse authors. Multicultural Navigation boosts your child's confidence in new situations, allowing them to become more adaptable, empathetic, and open-minded in our connected world.

## **My Child's Multicultural Navigation Genius:**

- Listens to music and moves around while doing homework at home, and it would be affirming if this was accepted at school.
- Shows concerns for children with disabilities when it comes to them being left behind in school, especially because he wants to work with kids with special needs when he finishes school.
- Often quiet when uncomfortable in unfamiliar cultural environments, and is most comfortable in these environments when there is at least one person he knows there.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

How does your child express their desire for equity and justice?



**Social Justice** is about creating space for your child to explore big questions about justice, equity, and how to create change that matters to them and their communities.

Social justice sparks a deeper engagement with learning. Your child might see math as a way to understand inequity, or writing as a tool to amplify their community's stories. It connects classroom lessons to the real world, giving your child tools to understand complex issues, form their own opinions, and build confidence to act on their beliefs.

## **My Child's Social Justice Genius:**

- Currently helps his community by making flyers for events that support Black culture.
- May be a future leader in helping to care for and educate Black students who have disabilities.
- Can change the world through the compassion he has for those who are different from him.



# What next for your BLACK GENIUS™?

Now that you've completed the Black Genius™ Profile, you might be wondering “what's next?”

Here are some ideas to help you get started with putting the Black Genius™ Profile into action. We suggest choosing one or two steps that feel right for you and your family, and start there.

01 **Review the Profile with your child**

The Black Genius™ Profile is meant to be the starting point of a conversation. Share the Profile with your child and hear their thoughts. Set time to revisit and revise it together.

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02 **Talk to your child's teachers and caregivers**

The Profile is also a starting point for a conversation with the other adults in your child's life. Share the profile with your child's teachers and discuss how to incorporate it into learning.

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03 **Create a Black Genius™ space in your home**

Black Genius™ affirmation starts at home. Create space at home to explore your child's curiosity or celebrate their identity. Check out the [Keep Dreaming Toolkit](#) for more ideas.

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04 **Connect with other Black Genius™ Protectors**

You're not alone in your journey to affirm Black Genius™. [Sign up](#) for Village of Wisdom's newsletter to be the first to hear about events that bring Black Genius protectors together.

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05 **Explore your community for Black Genius™ affirmation**

Our communities and neighborhoods are filled with Black Genius! Explore your neighborhood's history, cultural events, or clubs that speak to your child's interests.

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# THANK YOU!

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this Black Genius™ Profile.**

**Use this profile as a starting point for a conversation with your child and those who support their learning and growth.**

**If you want to learn more, sign up for our newsletter or follow us on social media.**

**Thank you for being a part of the Village.**

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