

# 4.11 Our Kiddos Are Going to Change the World

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

Jasmine Bradshaw, Dori, Emi Kim

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Jasmine Bradshaw 00:00

You're listening to the First Name Basis podcast Season Four, Episode 11: "Our Kiddos are Going to Change the World."



Jasmine Bradshaw 00:14

Teaching our children to be inclusive and anti-racist starts with us within the sacred walls of our home. First Name Basis is designed to empower you with the confidence you need to be a leader in your family and a change maker in your community. Together, we will wrestle with hard questions and use the answers to create the world we want: a world that reflects our values of inclusion, compassion, and courage. I'm your host, Jasmine Bradshaw, and I am so excited to be on this journey with you.



Jasmine Bradshaw 00:50

Hello, First Name Basis Fam. I am so glad you are here. Oh my goodness, I have such an exciting, fun, different episode to share with you today. At my free class, Ally ABCs: The Three Simple Ways to Embed Anti-Racism Into Your Family Culture, one of the things that I share with the people who attend is that we need to have hope. We need to be hopeful. We need to hear stories of change and recognize progress. And so I wanted to share one of those stories with you today. Today, you're going to hear the story of Emi. She is a nine year old from Utah, and she has created some amazing change in her community. And it just...when she told me about it, of course, I had tears in my eyes, because I could not believe that she said that one of the biggest reasons she was able to create this change and be such a positive force in our community was because she had overheard her mom listening to First Name Basis. And back in the day, a couple years ago, when I very first started the podcast, I had a friend ask me, "What is your dream? Like what do you wish could happen with this show?" And I remember telling her, "I just want people to take the talents that they already have and make change within their sphere of influence. If we have real committed families and communities trying to create justice and a better life for everyone, we will make such a huge impact together." And so when Emi shared this story with me, it truly was like a dream come true, because it was what I had hoped for from the podcast from the very, very beginning.

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 02:35

Now before I let me take it away, I have to remind you that enrollment for Ally Elementary is open right now. Ally Elementary is our very first anti-racist education program that is just for families. And this program is perfect for families who have children that are between the ages of third grade and eighth grade. And through these five weeks, there are five different modules, and we dive in to the really important things that your kiddos need to understand in order to be an ally. So there are 12 video lessons, and each one breaks down something that is really critical to allyship, whether it be starting out with melanin and how our skin gets its color, all the way to understanding anti-racism and what our privileges are and how we can make change in our communities. But I have to tell you that enrollment actually closes this Thursday, November 4. So at 11:59 pm on Thursday, the doors will close so that those of us who are already in Ally Elementary can get started on this really important work. And I said it was a five week program and it is, but you have lifetime access to the information and to the parent community that you are placed into when you enroll. So I hope that you will check out Ally Elementary. You can just go to [firstnamebasis.org/allyelementary](http://firstnamebasis.org/allyelementary), or simply click the link that is in the show notes. Look at all the details of the program. Of course you can reach out to me with any questions. Or if you want to get a little bit of a better feel for it. I'm teaching my very last free class tonight, November 2nd, at 7 pm Pacific Time. It's Ally ABCs: Three Simple Ways That You Can Embed Anti-Racism Into Your Family Culture. So I will share Ally ABCs with you, and then I will tell you a little bit more about Ally Elementary and you can ask me any questions that you have. And last week I actually did a sneak peek on the podcast. So if you want to get a feel for what one of the lessons would be like, just go to the previous episode. It's called "The Memory That I Can't Shake: The Why Behind Ally Elementary," and you can hear "I took the audio from one of the videos and put it into the show. So you can hear an entire lesson from Ally Elementary.

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 04:49

Okay my friends. That is enough of me talking. I know you're really here to hear Emi, because she is so stinking cute. You are going to freak out when she says that she's going to be the president, because she really is going to be the President of the United States. This girl is amazing. And oh my gosh "I like I laughed out loud. I had tears in my eyes. I just think the amazing thing about Emi is that she could be any one of our children. Our children are so uniquely talented that if we give them the opportunity to be creative, when it comes to what their allyship looks like, and how they can figure out what anti-racism means to them, and in their own lives, they can make such a huge difference. So I hope you'll leave this episode feeling really inspired and excited about taking your kiddos on this journey of becoming an ally, and figuring out what that really looks like in your life. All right, without further ado, here is sweet Emi and her mom, Dory, to tell us all about how she is changing the world "one lemonade stand at a time.

E

Emi Kim 06:01

Hi, I'm Emi Kim. I'm nine years old, and I attend fourth grade in Provo, Utah, where I live. I am Korean, Japanese, Hawaiian, and Chinese. I like to swim and do sketches in my free time. And when I grew up, I want to be either a scientist and still be an activist, or the President of the United States. But for now I'm changing the world one lemonade stand at a time.

D

Dori 06:34

I'm Amy's mom, Dori, and I'm a former educator. I have been listening to this, Jasmine and her podcast, for about a year now. And Emi and I have learned so much from Jasmine, and all of the things she's taught us. So yes, we were able "we're also part of her Patreon community "and we were able to speak to Jasmine about what Emi said. And...

E

Emi Kim 07:04

We are here to talk about how it started. What it is, and what we're doing right now. How the whole lemonade thing started is when my auntie and my mom asked me how I would want to change the world in a positive way, I said, "to fight racism." Then they asked me how I was going to do that. So we started to brainstorm some ways we could fight racism in our community, and eventually we all decided on getting diverse books for local schools. I noticed that there wasn't a lot of diverse books in my school library. And we also found a study done by We Need More Diverse Books, and the graphs showed that white characters were main characters mostly in the children's books by 41.8%, and animals and other things were 29.2, and even "and the least amount of main characters were the ones with people of color. And even all the books with the main characters of people of color added up, wouldn't even amount up to that of animals and other things like potatoes and cars. So we needed a way to get money for all those books. So then so I asked them if we can do a lemonade stand to get the money, and when they said yes, I was really excited, because since I was three, I wanted to do a lemonade stand. And this time, I think it'd be even better, because I would be doing it for a good cause. So this wasn't just any ordinary lemonade stand. It was also a bake sale. With the help of my grandma, uncle, family and friends, we made a lot of different things that represented our cultures, which were mochi, chocolate haupia cupcakes, guava cupcakes, banana bread, big chocolate chip cookies, guava juice, and sparkling pineapple lemonade. It was a family effort. And I'm really glad my whole family helped out.

E

Emi Kim 09:21

So the day of my lemonade stand was so hot. It was in the middle of July, and we were at the hottest day at the hottest time. But then again, we figured that more people would come during that time. And it was really exciting and super unexpected. My cousin and I, my cousin also helped out. It was so hot and we even started drinking the lemonade. So everybody was really generous at the lemonade stand paid more than they needed to pay. I mean my first goal was to get \$150 from one school, well 10 bucks for one school, and I kept having to change my goal because people paid more than they needed to pay, didn't want their change, and my grandpa even gave me an \$100 bill. So I had to change my goal to \$250, then I got so tired of changing it already that I just didn't change anymore. So my mom posted about it the day before on social media, so that got a lot of people to come. And actually most of their donations just came from people donating on Venmo because they wanted to support the cause. So in total, we made, I think, yeah, \$762. And when we counted this up, I was really surprised, especially since I thought the lemonade stand was gonna fail.

D

Dori 10:59

Really?

E

Emi Kim 10:59

Yes, I really did. And I felt really excited, happy, and so happy that my family all came through to help. And yes, how did you feel?

D

Dori 11:13

I was shocked, I was not expecting that much money from a lemonade stand. And then once we realized how much money we had, our next question was

money we had, our next question was,

E Emi Kim 11:24

how much books can we get? And how much schools can we give to? I mean, we were able to get 75 bucks for, like 15 books for five schools so that'd be 75 books total.

D Dori 11:43

We also had family and friends who wanted to know what books me was planning on buying, right? And so they sent in books as well. That's why we were able to buy so many books

E Emi Kim 11:54

Yes, it was very nice of them and generous. So when we noticed how much books we could buy, I really got to work. I mean, we were able to find a lot of resources and websites that told a lot about diverse books, so we could look them up, get the read aloud, and we also made sure that the author and illustrator were both either the same race or culture as the book itself. So my personal favorite bookâ€”actually, I have two. The first book is "Eyes That Kiss in the Corners," written by Joanna Ho. And I really like it, because I think I relate a lot to it. And it also shows just the wonders of having eyes that kiss in the corners, and how they're different and really special. So my second favorite is "We are Water Protectors," by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade.

D Dori 12:59

I really like it, because I love the illustrations, the storyline, and how it just tells people to protect the water. And also my auntie was a water protector. And I was really excited to hear that. So the cultures of the books I chose that we could find were Polynesian, Asian, Black, Latina, and Native American. I think this is important, because kids should see themselves in the books they read and notice they are not alone in this world, too. I really think that we should learn about different people with different experiences and notice that they have feelings too, and we shouldn't make fun of them. And then finally, three, we should realize that we are different and different is okay. So once I was done picking the books and ordering them, it was time to choose who to donate to. So at first we thought we'd donate to all under-resourced schools. But then we realized that all schools need these books, every kind of school.

D Dori 14:12

Emi was even nice enough to choose the school that I used to teach at as well. And so that was really fun.

D Dori 14:19

Go Tigers! I called up the principals and asked them if I could have a meeting with them. And evenâ€”one of the principals even cried on the phone because he said he was really touched. So I did a presentation for the principals. And some of them were really so excited that they eitherâ€”like sometimes, like they made Emi's Corner or like Emi's Section for kids, and that made me really happy, because I really want kids to learn about diversity and the wonders of having it.

D

Dori 15:01

One of the really cool things that has resulted in Emi's books is that the school district that she lives in, Provo City School District, they were kind of really excited about Emi's project. They had done a story on her, and they were talking about it, and so the media specialist for the school district actually heard about it, and she thought, "I need to meet this kid," because she thought it was such an amazing thing. And so what she did is she was able to purchase that same set of 15 books for each school in the district, each elementary school that wasn't able to get the set from Emi personally,

D

Dori 15:44

I was really excited hearing about this, because I'm like, "Oh, now all the schools are going to be able to have it!" Because the books are really nice with nice illustrations, good storylines, and, most important of all, teach kids about diversity.

D

Dori 16:01

Emi's lemonade stand, and the books that she donated have had a lot more positive effects in our community. And I'll let Emi share them with you.

E

Emi Kim 16:12

When I was planning my second lemonade stand, there were some kids who heard about my story. And my mom knew their parents, but I didn't really know them that well. But we've become good friends now. And we each did a lemonade stand in our own area, cuz we lived in different places, areas. And it was really fun.

D

Dori 16:38

Emi's lemonade stand also caught the attention of a lot of media.

D

Dori 16:43

Yes. And I was really excited to be on it, because then more people will be able to hear about it and hopefully also be inspired to make positive changes around the world.

D

Dori 16:57

And one thing that's been really neat as her mom is to hear stories from people who we don't know, who have been inspired by what Emi's doing, and their children want to do it too, or they are more conscious now of the books that are in their own libraries at home, or in the libraries in their schools. And we've also had a lot of people come out of the woodwork that we would have never met in any other way. And so one of those is there was a lady who saw the flyer that was advertised on social media again by one of our friends that did the second lemonade stand with us, right Emi?

E

Emi Kim 17:37

Yes.

D

Dori 17:38

So she gave me a call. And she explained that she had seen Emi's flyer, she had seen the stories about her in the news, and she was so touched by it, that she also wanted to be part of the solution. And she wanted to help.

D

Dori 17:50

And she said that she would give us a 40% off discount and we can order our books through her. And she didn't even want anything in return, which my mom and I thought was really generous.

D

Dori 18:08

So Emi's little lemonade stand has turned into a community effort. And it's inspired people across our state of Utah to make sure that their libraries at their schools and at their homes are more diverse.

D

Dori 18:22

And I also hoped for that too. So the biggest thing I learned from this is that it can't just be one person to make a change; you need a whole team—a whole team effort. And that's just what happened. We met different people who helped us. And our family also stepped in to help us, which I thought was really kind. And a lot of my family came to support the lemonade, the first lemonade stand. And I really like that because I mean, now it's gotten so big, and everyone will be able to learn about diversity more.

D

Dori 19:04

Yeah, and I think another thing that we learned too is that all it takes is for one person, it can be a kid, it can be anybody, it takes one person to start something, and there's so many people that are willing to join and to help and to support the cause. It just takes one person to start it.

D

Dori 19:23

So for my second lemonade stand, I wanted to buy books that could represent different families and people with different abilities. You know, I wouldn't consider it disability because it's not about what they can't do, it's about the different things that they can do all these different abilities that they have. And I really think it's good for them to be represented. Because even my little sister once had a disability—she couldn't drink or like eat or even breathe properly. And she needed a feeding tube. She had this when she was born and she had to go to the hospital a lot. She had a lot of doctor's appointments, and even like three surgeries at such a young age, and I'm glad she got through it.

D

Dori 20:16

Yeah. And we thought, you know, everybody needs to see themselves on the bookshelves. And so that's what her second lemonade stand was about. There were multiple people that came up to Emi on her second lemonade stand, or at her second lemonade stand, and they were so filled with emotions. Do you remember that?

D

Dori 20:36

Yes, they were. A lot of people came up crying, like literally crying. There was one lady who drove all the way down from Midvale.

D

Dori 20:47

She was so touched by the things that Emi said, and she said that she had multiracial children, and they were all grown now, but she had wished that they were, had, those kinds of books when they were in school, that would have been really helpful for them.

E

Emi Kim 21:05

Also doing this, like a lemonade stand, a lot of my classmates came to, like "let me count how much...9. I hope and wish kids knew that just because you're a kid, or "this is out to everyone, no matter what age you are, you can make a difference. It just takes a team effort, and action. I think that First Name Basis has helped me, my mom, and my family know, like, how to identify acts of racism, and other ways that people aren't being treated the way that they deserve to be. I also think that it helps us know, what am I gonna do? How am I gonna help this? And that's "and I think First Name Basis without it, we wouldn't even be doing the lemonade stand.

D

Dori 22:04

So thank you, Jasmine! Thank you for teaching us and inspiring us to do the work.

E

Emi Kim 22:11

And I'm really glad I listened to it, because I've learned a lot from it. Bye!

J

Jasmine Bradshaw 22:19

Can you even with how wonderful Emi is? She is making such a huge difference. And it came from just this nugget of an idea that she had on her own, about how she could make a difference. I just...I cannot get over how powerful this story is. When I was listening to it, I turned to my husband and said, "I just want our kiddos to be like this." And I want all kiddos to understand the power that they have within them to truly create change. And I love when she said that she went to the schools. She called the principals. She explains why she picked the certain books that she did. Like, this is real deep work that she's doing. And it's helping her community, but it's also helping her. She's falling in love with being someone who serves in the community. And isn't that what we want for all of our children? Oh, my goodness, so good. So, so good.

 J

Jasmine Bradshaw 23:18

Okay, my friend, you can help your kiddo be an ally. Ally Elementary is your roadmap to raising the courageous, anti-racist allies that our communities so desperately need. All of our kiddos can be like Emi if they have the right tools and the right knowledge. And that is what Ally Elementary is supposed to do for your family. I took everything that you need to know about allyship and boiled it down into this five module, 12 video lesson course so that your family can feel confident about the journey that you are on and how you are truly going to invest in yourselves and in your community, to make change and create the community that you want to be a part of. You want to live in and experience life with so many of the other people around you. So go to [firstnamebasis.org/allyelementary](https://firstnamebasis.org/allyelementary) to purchase. And just a reminder, enrollment closes on Thursday, November 4 at 11:59 pm, so you have just a few more days to get your enrollment in and join us on the very first round of Ally Elementary.

 J

Jasmine Bradshaw 24:31

All right, I love you. I'm so grateful that you're here as always, and I hope you feel inspired to support your kiddos as they go out into the community and make real, lasting, important changes.

 J

Jasmine Bradshaw 24:47

My friends, thank you for being here. I hope you can feel how much I believe in you, and how deeply I know that when we work together, we can make real change in our communities. Any of the books, podcasts, or articles that I reference will be linked in the show notes. If you are looking for more detailed notes, be sure to head over to our Patreon community. On our Patreon site, I provide all of the outlines that I use to make the episodes and everything is linked there. So you don't have to take furious notes while you are listening. And don't forget to join us over on Instagram at [firstname.basis](https://www.instagram.com/firstname.basis). If you're interested in partnering with First Name Basis or doing some kind of collaboration, please email us at [hello@firstnamebasis.org](mailto:hello@firstnamebasis.org). All right, have a great week my friends, and I will talk to you again soon.