**Parental Behaviors That Promote Development of Prejudicial Behavior in Children**

\* parents not discussing at home racial issues emerging in society, comments heard or social/racial

injustice observed on television and parents not discussing these events with their children

\* parents not having friends from differing racial and cultural groups

\* parents not exposing/enabling their children to interact with children from different races or

cultures

\* parents not engaging their children in discussions about the positive aspects and uniqueness of

individuals from other cultures

**The Early Formation of Racial and Prejudicial Attitudes**

Intolerant and prejudicial views primarily result from the following sources:

\* the tendency for human beings to be ethnocentric; to assert their cultural and personal

superiority over other cultures

\* a lack of interaction with other cultures

\* the human tendency to categorize information into compartments

Between the ages of three and four children recognize their racial and cultural backgrounds. At age three they understand that their skin color is stable and will not change. By age seven or eight children can differentiate between race and culture groups and categorize individuals based on physical differences. Research demonstrates that Caucasian children between the ages of four and seven consistently show a preference to interact with children from the same race or culture group and they tend to hold negative or unfavorable attitudes toward children of other racial/culture groups.