



NBCDI NATIONAL BLACK CHILD
DEVELOPMENT WEEK CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITY **INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**



NBCDI
National Black Child
Development Institute



The mission of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) is to improve the quality of life for Black children and families. We are the only national organization focused solely on the unique attributes and needs of Black children, birth through age 8. We exist to fight for the creation of an equitable and just future for Black children and families. We mobilize communities and ignite movements on the strength of Black excellence.

NBCDI is engaged in the process of building the world Black children deserve to be born into.

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Focused on action and equity, the goal of NBCDI's National Black Child Development Week (NBCDW) is to increase the visibility of issues and opportunities related to the healthy and joyful development of Black children, while empowering individuals and organizations to act on behalf of them nationwide, even globally.

Our 2025 activities will focus on narrative and education around ***NBCDI's Afrofuturism and Systems Change: Reclaiming Mental Models for Child Wellbeing Paper, and the Afrofuturist Systems Design Process.*** This activity and animated story helps explain the Afrofuturist Systems Design Process in a way that is understandable and relatable for children. Children will learn what it means to be an Afrofuturist and how to implement the Afrofuturist process.

Suggested age range for this activity: 9-12 years

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Supplies and technology needed:

- A screen or projector that can play and project an MP4 video.
- A remote or switch to pause the video.
- Coloring supplies such as markers, crayons or colored pencils.
- Large poster board, colored paper, plain paper or other material that can be drawn on.
- Stickers, magazines or other material that can be used to design ideas and allow children to express their creativity.

Room set up:

- Set the room up for children to be able to access the creative materials outlined above.
- Ensure children can see the screen during the experience.



NBCDW: Afrofuturism: The Future Looks Like Us

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Activity:

The video will show a **pause icon**  in the top right corner of the screen, when that appears, please pause and discuss the aligned information.

Example instructor introduction for students:

This activity is all about you being a leader and working together to share your dreams for the best neighborhoods, schools and communities.

We are going to watch a video and do an activity while we watch. We will pause a few times in between to talk about some new words and share ideas and dreams as a group. **Let's get started!**

Start the video.

Access Video By Clicking Here



NBCDW: Afrofuturism: The Future Looks Like Us

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Afrofuturist: A person who imagines and works to build a better future with no limits, using the lens and power of Black culture and community.



Briefly touch on **NBCDI's Afrofuturist Systems Design Process**. It's a really long name but explain to students that this is the adult version of the process that they are about to do. Students fit in the part that discusses Black expertise. Their dreams and aspirations contribute to that part and that is what is being discussed and shared during this experience.



DISCUSS STEP 1 OF THE PROCESS.

Step 1 - Think about one thing you want to change in your neighborhood or school and the way most people think about it.

Don't worry about discussion on the following steps for more than 2 minutes each, later in the experience the steps will be more clearly explained providing an example and overview.



DISCUSS STEP 2 OF THE PROCESS.

Step 2 - What can groups do to help people think differently about that issue so we can have new ways of doing?

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DISCUSS STEP 3 OF THE PROCESS.



Step 3 - Groups share what the neighborhood or school looks like because everyone worked together to do something and think differently.



Discuss the meaning of the word, Representation.

Representation: Seeing people who look like you or are like you. It helps us feel seen and included.



Ask students to now think about one thing they might want to change in their neighborhood or school and how people think about it.



Request that students draw a small symbol representing that on whatever material they are drawing on.



Ask students to think about their issue and the symbol they drew, ask them what can groups do to plan projects that will help?



Request that students draw another symbol that represents what projects can help.



Facilitate a discussion with students regarding how some projects will help people think differently about the issues and that's why working together and developing solutions as a team is so important and meaningful.

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-  Facilitate a discussion with students regarding what their community will look like if people begin to think differently about the issues that students drew out.
-  Advise students to dream big and draw what their new neighborhood, school or community looks like now that people think differently and work together.
-  Discuss each step and allow students to talk about their issue, thinking, solution and new community!

Feel free to make adjustments to the experience based on the developmental level of students in your setting.

Thank you for being an Afrofuturist and leading children in this activity!
To learn more about the work of NBCDI, visit www.nbcdi.org.

