

Youth and Family Corner

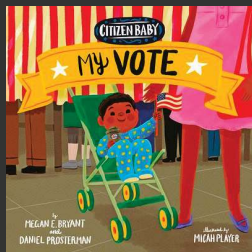
Even though many young people are not eligible to vote, helping them understand the power of voting today will influence their participation in civic engagement tomorrow. When speaking to young people about voting, it's great to remind them how this one action can help support causes and policies they care about. By supporting an issue on the ballot or a candidate who aligns with their values, they can positively impact their community and country.

Here are a few ways to help them get ready to vote:

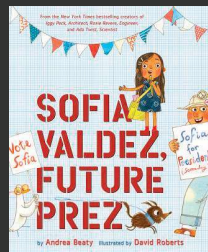
1. **Let them see you vote.** Whether you're completing a mail in ballot or going to vote in person, let young people see you cast your ballot. Explain what you're doing, who or what you're voting for and why. If they're older and can understand the issue, start a dialogue with them about who they would vote for and why. If they vote differently, this is a great opportunity to model respectful disagreement on issues by saying something along the lines of "that's interesting, tell me more about that."
2. **Connect them to opportunities that show the power of voting in action.** Even if they can't vote, there are many ways young people can get involved in law making. There are many city and state youth boards and councils that provide recommendations to elected officials and show the great power of future voters. Daily Point of Light honoree Sara Cheung serves on the San Francisco Youth Commission and advocates for legislation that impacts children and youth.
3. **Have them register to vote as soon as they're able.** While the legal age to vote varies by country, some countries allow young people to preregister so they will be registered by the time they do reach the eligible voting age.
4. **Have fun with mock elections.** Is chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin the best cookie? Is ice cream or cake the better dessert? Have young people vote on their favorite things to help them understand the process of voting. Have a few young people debate why something is better (pizza is the better meal over pasta!), set up a ballot and allow them to vote on their preferences. This is a great activity where you can get the whole family, classroom or neighborhood involved!

Family Friendly Books & Resources

The following are resources for families to encourage listening and learning from others as well as information on finding other resources you can trust:



My Vote
Megan E. Bryant and
Daniel Prosterman



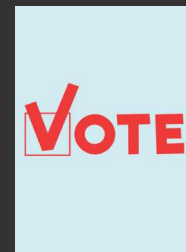
Sofia Valdez, Future Prez
Andrea Beaty



The Voting Booth
Brandy Colbert



Sesame Street
Steve Carrell - Vote



Why Voting is Important?
Kids Academy



Should 16-Year-Olds Be
Allowed to Vote?
Above the Noise