**The Academic Achievement Gap: What we can do as Parents, Teachers and Community Leaders**

The academic achievement gap that plagues public education in the United States has been discussed and debated hundreds of times over in the past few decades. The fact is that students of color are lagging behind their white counterparts in academic test scores. One in five African American and one in four Hispanic teens respectively read below the basic reading levels.

**Two possible solutions for closing the gap**

1. **Exposure to successful people who look like our students.**

According to Brian Spritzer and Joshua Aronson in their article *“Minding and mending the gap: Social psychological interventions to reduce educational disparities,”* students need role model exposure. They should be exposed to successful people who also look like them. They state in the article, that students are less intimidated by challenges when they see that a member of their group has succeeded in the same domain.

1. **Help students to visualize their “possible selves.”**

Studies have shown that students who visualize themselves in the place of reaching their goals have better well-being and persistence when facing challenges. If they can envision who they can be in the future, it can help them find meaning to what they are learning in the classroom.

**How KITHKids can help**

The vision of KithKids is to guarantee that every child has the resources necessary to visualize their better selves. We want to ensure that every child has an opportunity to imagine an exciting future. We understand that children of color are grossly misrepresented or underrepresented in the media, in books and in children’s toys. We provide our customers with multi-cultural media images of children’s characters in real world careers, with real life personality. We offer real portrayals of children of color, so that they can feel beautiful in their own skin.