



# “Blizzards and Wizards”

#ImagineEquity  
Activity Page

## Hello, and welcome to *The Imagine Neighborhood™* podcast!

Our award-winning podcast helps kids learn social-emotional skills like building friendships, practicing patience, and finding calm. Our show takes place in a special, magical neighborhood where it sometimes rains rubber chickens or you have to hop on rocks to cross Lava Avenue. The Imagine Neighborhood lives inside everyone’s imagination, and every week, we tell stories about the fun things that happen here.

### Talking About Race and Identity with Your Kids

In *The Imagine Neighborhood* podcast, we strive to create a world where everyone is treated fairly. But it’s important to remember that a fair and equitable world is one that requires effort, focus, and conversation. Kids begin to notice racial differences and internalize biases before they’re even five years old.<sup>1</sup> You can help equip your kids for these kinds of conversations by encouraging questions and by finding shows, books, and podcasts with diverse representation.

### About “Blizzards and Wizards”

The team at *The Imagine Neighborhood* podcast partnered with multiple esteemed researchers in the field of positive racial identity development to create a six-part series titled *Imagine Equity: Six New Stories About Race, Identity, and Making Things Right*. In this episode, “[Blizzards and Wizards](#),” a young wizard named Preston Changeo travels to the Imagine Neighborhood to visit his longtime friend, Alakazambra—only to be shocked when he realizes that she’s become friends with Count Vacula, a vampire! Insisting that wizards and monsters can never be friends, Preston Changeo needs to learn that having friends and neighbors with all kinds of different identities is not only fun, but it can help you learn new skills and become a better friend.

## Help Your Kids #ImagineEquity

Your identity is a combination of who you are, the way you think, and the way you are viewed by the world. There are many different parts that make up your identity, like your name, the country you live in, your ethnicity, whether you have brothers or sisters, and much more. Finding things in common with others is a great way to build friendships, but it's also wonderful to have friends with identities that are different from yours.

As you listen together to “Blizzards and Wizards,” ask the kids to think about their own friendships with questions like: *What kinds of identities do you bring to your friendships? What do you appreciate about friends who are different from you? What's one thing that makes you feel valued and cared for as a friend, and how can you make others feel that way?*

Next, invite them to write a poem about new friends. They can even write a musical tune for their poem to turn it into a flutefisk opera for Alakazamba and Count Vacula to sing together!

## More Discussion Questions

**Question 1** Can you be friends with people whose identities are different from yours?

**Answer** Yes! Spending time with people who are different from you is good for you, your friends, and the whole neighborhood.

**Question 2** What are some ways that you can welcome new people who move to your neighborhood?

**Answer** You can introduce yourself, bring them a housewarming gift or card, and help them get to know the neighborhood.

## Additional Resources

[P.R.I.D.E.:](#) Positive Racial Identity Development in Early Education (University of Pittsburgh)

[The Imagine Equity series:](#) *The Imagine Neighborhood*™ podcast

[Different Colors of Beauty:](#) Learning for Justice

1 Sullivan, J., Wilton, L., & Apfelbaum, E. P. (2021). Adults delay conversations about race because they underestimate children's processing of race. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 150(2), 395–400. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xge0000851>