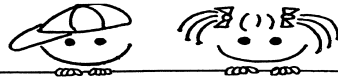




Parenting Corner: *Cultural Awareness*



IUSD Early Childhood Learning Center
Early Start * Head Start * Montessori International * School Readiness * Special Education Preschool
(949) 936-5870



What is culture?

Culture is a set of learned beliefs, values, behaviors and the way of life shared by the members of a society.



Hello (English) * **Hola** (Spanish) *
Namaste (Hindi) * Ahn nyeong ha se
yo (Korean) * **As-salaam-aleykum**
(Arabic) * Ni Hao (Mandarin)
* Chao (Vietnamese) * *Jambo* (Swahili) *
Dobry ranok (Ukrainian) *



Fast Facts

The 5 largest North American religions are Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Symbols of some religions: (Counterclockwise from the North Pole) Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Taoism

A Few Cultural Holidays in February

- | *Black History Month (USA)
- | 3rd: Tu b'Shvat (Jewish)
- | 4th: Rosa Parks Birth Anniversary
- | 5th: Constitution Day (Mexico)
- | 12th: Lantern Festival (Taiwan)
- | 17th: Carnival (Brazil)
- | 18th: Chinese Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)
- | 20th: Mardi Gras (USA)
- | 21st: Ash Wednesday (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- | 24th: Flag Day (Mexico)



HOW TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT DIVERSITY

Teach children to be critical thinkers, specifically about prejudice and discrimination. Critical thinking is when we strive to understand issues through examining and questioning. Young children can begin to learn when a word or an image is unfair or hurtful.

Respond to children's questions and comments about differences even if you're not sure what to say. Children often interpret a lack of response to mean that it's not acceptable to talk about differences. If you're unsure about what to say, try: "I need to think about your question and talk to you later."

Listen carefully to what children are saying. Ask a few questions before answering to get a clearer idea of what they really want to know and the ideas they already have on the subject.

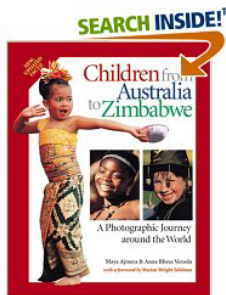
Share ideas for responding to children's questions with families and colleagues. You'll gain new ideas and insights as you exchange experiences, and you can clarify what works best for you and your children.

If children are nonverbal, observe and respond to their curiosity. For example, if a child is staring at or patting the head of a child whose hair is very different from hers, you can say, "He has straight hair, and you have curly hair."

Model the behaviors and attitudes you want children to develop. Pay particular attention to situations that can either promote prejudice or inhibit a child's openness to diversity. Reflect diversity in books, dolls, puzzles, paintings, etc.

Don't let racist and prejudicial remarks go by without intervening. It's important to let children know from a very early age that name-calling of any kind, whether it's about someone's religion, race, ethnic background, or sexual orientation, is hurtful and wrong.

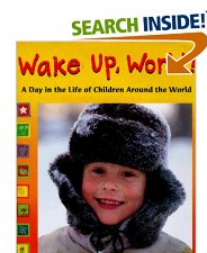
Try to create opportunities for children to interact and make friends with people who are different from them. Children learn best from concrete experiences.



Children from Australia to Zimbabwe: Children from 25 countries are introduced with beautiful photos. A map of the world highlights the countries profiled. Each overview includes a map, flag, description of the people who live there, and several photographs. Each selection also contains additional facts: capital, language, population, number of children in the country, favorite sports and an environmental tidbit.

Story Time

Wake Up, World: A simple look at some of the ways in which people differ in the details of their lives but are similar in their overall values. There is a focus on a specific aspect of daily life, such as waking up, school or playtime. It conveys information about the homes, families and lifestyles of a group of youngsters from eight different countries.



DISHES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Use food to teach your children about other cultures. Discuss origins of certain dishes.

Thailand: Pad Thai



Italy: Ravioli



Greece: Couscous



Vietnam: Vermicelli w/Shrimp



Mexico: Chicken Fajita



Japan: Sushi



Spain: Paella



USA: Hamburger



Helpful Resources

Food:

www.world-recipes.info/

Family Education:

<http://life.familyeducation.com/diversity/parenting/34461.html>

Languages:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Say-Hello-in-Different-Languages>



For more information on the IUSD School Readiness Program visit:
<http://www.iusd.org/eclc>

WORDS OF THE WISE



We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

- Jimmy Carter



For those who have seen the Earth from space, the experience most certainly changes your perspective. The things that we share in our world are far more valuable than those which divide us.

- Donald Williams

