

National ECELC Newsletter

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Creating a Culturally Diverse Classroom

It is imperative to create a culturally sensitive early care and education setting as culture and diversity should be key aspects of learning. Throughout the years, cultural sensitivity in classrooms has expanded beyond a broad overview of other cultures, to now a full integration of student's differences in the child care curriculum. Culture is an important factor in child development. Examples of this include: Providing instruments and music from around the world, books about different types of children, creative dramatic play clothing, art materials that showcase all shades of skin color, photographs and posters that show different children and cultures from around the globe.²

Share These Tips for Creating a Culturally Sensitive Child Care Setting³

ECE Providers can:

1. Express interest in the ethnic background of their students.
2. Redirect their role in the classroom from instructor to facilitator.
3. Maintain a strict level of sensitivity to language concerns.
4. Maintain an 'inclusive' curriculum that remains respectful of differences and similarities.

The National ECELC

Welcome to the National Early Care and Education Collaboratives Project (ECELC) Newsletter! We hope this newsletter is helpful as we offer supplemental information to help you prepare for the Learning Sessions and provide technical assistance to early care and education (ECE) providers. Topics within each newsletter will emphasize areas outlined in the *Lets Move! Child Care* goals including healthy eating, physical activity, screen time, and breastfeeding support. We hope you enjoy it!

-The National ECELC Team

Visit the *Let's Move! Child Care* website:

www.healthykidshealthyfuture.org

¹ Head Start Website: Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness. Principle 3: Culturally Relevant and Diverse Programming Requires Learning Accurate Information About The Cultures of Difference Groups and Discarding Stereotypes.

² Scholastic. Winter Holidays. Available at: <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/winter-holidays>

³ Matthew Lynch. Huffington Post. Available at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/matthew-lynch-edd/6-ways-teachers-can-foste_b_6294328.html

Classroom Ideas and Information on Creating a Culturally Diverse Classroom

1. [Childcare Education Institute](#) December Newsletter on creating a multicultural classroom.

2. [Griffith](#) Good Practice Resource booklet – figure 2. Recommended strategies to assist with creating a culturally inclusive classroom

3. [The Southern Poverty Law Center](#) – a classroom resource for teaching tolerance.

4. [Ponciano and Shabazian](#) - addressing diversity in early childhood.

5. [Scholastic](#): - winter holiday celebration tips and projects

6. [Colorín Colorado](#) - culturally responsive classroom instruction tips and holiday and traditional craft ideas.

Questions?

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Celebrating Different Cultures in the Classroom

There are many ways to celebrate diversity in the classroom with children and families. Children should be introduced to diversity through activities, lessons, and free play. The following are a few examples programs can try:

Activities:

- Have a multicultural potluck where families can bring in their favorite dish.
- Host an “All About Me Day” - have children bring in one item from home that makes them unique to share with the class.
- Invite different community workers (police officers, post office workers, grocery store workers, firefighters, etc.) to visit the program.

Lessons:

- Create passports and have children decorate their page with the country/culture they are learning about. Take pictures with culture specific props to put on the page.
- Have an “Around the World Taste Test” - pick three cooking activities from different cultures and have the children taste and compare the different foods.
- Children can create self portraits of themselves to hang in the classroom.

Free Play:

- Multicultural books
- Multicultural foods and clothing in housekeeping
- Multicultural paint, crayons, and paper in art

Celebrate the holidays and the new year!

- Invent a classroom holiday
- Make greeting cards
- Create a peace wreath
- Write wishes for the world

For more ideas, visit the resources listed in the yellow column on the left.



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