

October  
November  
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2013

# CREATE A SUCCESSFUL MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT IN AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTING

Children in our world, now more than ever, are living in a diverse society. Even if children live in an environment with one dominant race, it is still necessary to learn about a culture different from their own. Our job as educators is to help children to be successful and empower them.

## Classroom Environment

- ◆ Encourage a sense of wellbeing for all children by removing stereotypical materials, art and books.
- ◆ Create pictures and art that represent different families from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.
- ◆ Have multicultural material properly displayed for children's use.
- ◆ Create learning activities and games that prompt positive discussion such as word games and language.

## Art

- ◆ Have authentic materials for art activities that reflect rich colors and patterns for children to use.
- ◆ Have magazines available that contain people from diverse groups and locations.
- ◆ Have materials available for multicultural art activities such as skin-color crayons, markers and paint.
- ◆ Choose cultural artwork of prominent people in different cultures to teach and empower young children.

## Block Play and Building

- ◆ Include a variety of interconnecting blocks that represent buildings from other countries.
- ◆ Have blocks and small animals that are from the U. S. and other countries.
- ◆ Have blocks or interlocking toys that reflect children and families of a variety of ethnic groups.

## BOOKS - How to use them with young children

- ◆ Use books that are sensitive to other cultures and include information about everyday life.
- ◆ Use books that represent the children who are in your class and other ethnic groups.
- ◆ Use books to arouse the children's imagination and make them aware of human behavior and feelings of others.
- ◆ Use books about other cultures that tell an interesting story and give accurate information.
- ◆ Remove books that have biased language or stereotypical pictures from the classroom. Add books about the benefits of culture.

## Cooking or Food Activities

- ◆ Encourage children to experiment with foods other than those with which they are familiar.
- ◆ Give children the opportunity to prepare and eat a variety of foods from other cultures such as spaghetti, stir-fried rice and burritos.
- ◆ Have children's cook-ware, dishes and utensils available such as woks, chopsticks and kettles.
- ◆ Use a wide variety of colorful fruit and vegetables from other cultures to teach and enjoy such as kiwi, mangos and plantains.
- ◆ Bring spices to class from a variety of menus for children to smell and use for hands-on activities.

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"Creating a Multicultural Environment that Values Diversity  
for Young Children"

