

MINNESOTA MULTICULTURAL MULTILINGUAL TRAINING CURRICULUM
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Environment

Objectives

This course was developed to address the following learning objectives. You can reasonably expect that, by the end of the session, actively engaged participants will be able to:

- Describe why it is important to acknowledge, respect, and honor differences in children.
- Make the link between child individual development and the Minnesota Early Learning Standards.
- Make a plan for their own program to provide a curriculum that honors children’s background knowledge and culture.

Let’s practice: Today you are learning to integrate children’s prior learning and interests into your curriculum. There should be evidence of using children’s prior knowledge and personal experiences and interests in your classroom or family childcare home every day. This happens when the topic of study- or theme- includes children’s ideas and representations. The learning activities (talking, reading, writing, playing) should incorporate examples of children’s experiences in their family.

Here are three activities to integrate children’s prior knowledge and personal experiences in curriculum.

1. K-W-L exercise

What we **K**now, **W**ant to know, have **L**earned

- Lead the children in a beginning discussion about what they know about a topic.
- Add what they want to know
- Learn together about the topic
- End with what children –and adults- have learned

2. *In my family...discussions*

Ask children about how things are done at home or in their family

- How do you [eat, sleep, shop, play, garden, share, speak, etc] ... in your family?
- Tell me how your family [does] ...

3. *Family books*

Invite parents to share their stories about the topic you are studying

- Make a book with pictures, notes, drawings that the family wants to contribute.
- These can be individual books for each child, or a class book.

Example: If *Transportation* is your topic of study or theme: children and teachers talk about the different ways their families transport themselves: bus, walk, bike, car, light rail. They bring pictures or collect pictures from magazine, draw pictures, talk about transportation in the home country, etc.

Activity: Planning curriculum

Items to consider for planning your curriculum, using the ideas from today's session.

Select a topic of study or theme: _____

Which of the three activities [K-W-L; In my Family... discussions; Family books] would be most appropriate for this topic?

How will the children's varied backgrounds be reflected in the visual representation (drawings, photographs, paintings)?

What music or songs will you use?

What materials or props will you and the children use to play?

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Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Environment

What books will you read to children?

What foods –if applicable- will you eat?

What will you and the children write about?

Will you need help from parents or community members? What will that be?

Goal setting

1. Write a goal related to what you have learned this week. Decide how to integrate new ideas into your daily work.

My goal

One action I plan to take as a result of today's session: