

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES: WHAT TEACHERS SHOULD KNOW

CHALLENGE

- **Media:** It's three months into the new school year, and Mr. Bennett, a fourth-grade teacher, is chatting with Mrs. Casey in the teachers' lounge. Their conversation soon turns to Maria, a new arrival from Mexico and a recent addition to Mr. Bennett's class. (movie)

INITIAL THOUGHTS

- What influence does culture have on a student's school success?
- How does linguistic diversity influence classroom performance?
- What impact do culture and language have on a family's involvement in school and on their child's education?

PERSPECTIVES AND RESOURCES

- Module Objectives (box)
 - After completing the entire Perspectives and Resources section and reviewing the accompanying activities, you should be able to:
 - Understand how a teacher's own culture can influence his or her teaching
 - Describe what it means to provide culturally responsive instruction
 - Recognize how linguistic diversity may influence school outcomes for students
 - Understand the importance of family involvement in school

📄 Page 1: Culture

- Thoughts on the meaning of "culture"
- A variety of experiences or circumstances can influence an individual's cultural beliefs (bulleted list)
- FYI (box)
- **Media:** Clint McDougal stresses that teachers should be aware of the different cultures in their classrooms (audio)
- **Media:** Clint McDougal talks about the importance of recognizing differences within cultures (audio)

📄 Page 2: Cultural Responsiveness

- To become culturally responsive, teachers should engage in an ongoing process of... (bulleted list)
- Research Shows... (box)
- To become culturally responsive, teachers should also... (bulleted list)
- Diversity in the classroom (box with quotation)
- **Activity:** Becoming culturally responsive is a journey, not a destination (box with link)
 - *Link:* Answer the questions to help develop your cultural responsiveness
- Disabilities may be viewed in a variety of ways (bulleted list)
- Research Shows... (box)
- Cultural Connection (box)

🎧 Page 3: Culturally Responsive Instruction

- Teachers who do not adequately take cultural diversity into account may find that students... (bulleted list)
- **Media:** Alfredo Artiles talks about the importance of recognizing possible differences between the classroom culture and the culture of students (audio)
- Teachers can help their students to make connections by (bulleted list with link)
 - *Link:* “multicultural education” (definition)
- FYI (box)
- When schools value and welcome cultural and ethnic diversity... (bulleted list)
- Cultural Connection (box)

🎧 Page 4: Communication

- Culturally responsive teachers understand... (bulleted list with links)
 - *Link:* “dramatic presentation” (definition)
 - *Link:* “conversational and active participatory discourse” (definition)
 - *Link:* “gestures and body movement” (definition)
 - *Link:* “rapidly paced rhythmic speech” (definition)
 - *Link:* “metaphorical imagery” (definition)
- **Media:** Alfredo Artiles talk about the importance of recognizing and valuing differing storytelling styles (audio)
- Keep in Mind (box)
- Cultural Connection (box)
- **Activity:** Think about the scenarios outlined below (box with audio clips)
 - **Media:** Donna Ford: Could cultural values and beliefs about sharing personal opinions determine participation? (audio)
 - **Media:** You’re engaged in conversation with a student who constantly interrupts you. Explain why this behavior could be culturally acceptable for some students. (audio)
 - **Media:** While telling a story, a student jumps around from one idea and incident to the next, without consideration of conventional narrative sequence. (audio)

🎧 Page 5: Language Acquisition

- *Link:* “English as a second language” (definition)
- FYI (box)
- The stages of second language acquisition (table)
- “BICS” (definition)
- “CALP” (definition)
- Inaccurate assumptions about a student’s ability potentially result in... (bulleted list)
- **Media:** Clint McDougal talks about Maria and her comfort with using newly acquired English during play (audio)
- Cultural Connection (box)

🎧 Page 6: Linguistic Supports

- Support for students (table)
- Cultural Connection (box)

🎧 Page 7: Promoting Family Involvement

- Challenges/ Possible Solutions (table with bulleted list)
- **Media:** Clint McDougal contrasts what some parents consider to be their responsibility to their child’s education and the teacher’s expectations of parents’ responsibility for educating their children (audio)

- **Media:** Luz Hernandez shares her advice about working with families from diverse backgrounds (audio)
- To strengthen programs and policies in the educational environment... (bulleted list)
- **Activity:** Take a moment to answer the questions below (box with bulleted list)
- Cultural Connection (box)

Page 8: References, Additional Resources and Information

- References
- Additional Resources and Information

Page 9: Credits

- Content Experts
- Module Developers
- Module Production Team
- Module Production Support Team
- Media Production Team
- Media
- Expert Interviews

ASSESSMENT

- “Please complete the items below” (numbered questions)

WRAP UP

- **Media:** Donna Ford summarizes why it is important for teachers to be culturally competent (audio)
- Reflection on Initial Thoughts (box)