

Creating Cultural Competence through Literacy: Texts that Celebrate



Dr. Darwin Mason Jr.

Kamilah Mathews

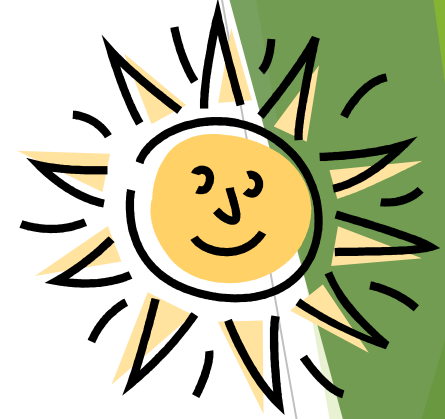
2020 Read to Succeed Early Childhood Vid-Con
July 23, 2020

CHECK IN



- ▶ How are you feeling?
- ▶ What distractions are you setting aside to be fully present right now?
- ▶ What are you excited about?

NORMS



- ▶ Start and End on time
- ▶ Be respectful of colleagues
- ▶ Disagree with ideas, not people
- ▶ Open communication
*transparency
- ▶ Be intentional

A Whole New Mind

“We can not solve a problem from the same consciousness that created it.”

Albert Einstein

What is **bias**?

- ▶ A tendency to accept or reject a person, idea, or concept as a result of one's own cultural background.
- ▶ We all have bias
- ▶ Our bias impact us daily
- ▶ Embrace that fact by knowing who you are and why your bias exist.

What is culture?

- ▶ Culture is also a way of describing the combination of the various groups to which one belongs—racial, ethnic, religious, and social, among others.
- ▶ To be part of a culture generally entails sharing a variety of customs, attitudes, practices, values, educational expectations, and ways of relating to others.
- ▶ Everybody is apart of a culture. Most people are apart of more than one.

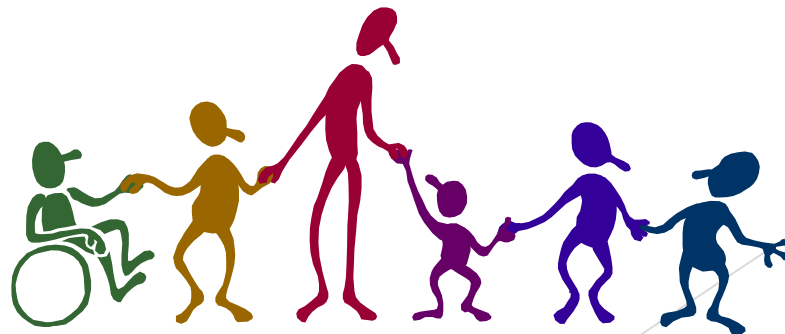
What is Cultural Competency?

The ability to work effectively across cultures in a way that acknowledges and respects the culture of the person or organization being served.

J. H. Hanley (1999) - Beyond the tip of the Iceberg: Five Stages toward cultural competence

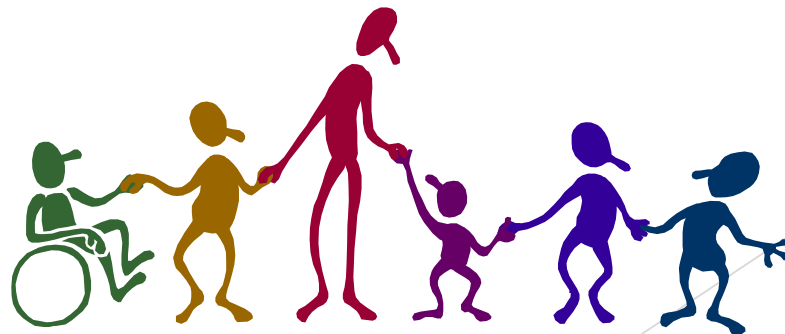
Cultural Competency Continuum

CULTURAL
DESTRUCTIVENESS



Cultural Competency Continuum

CULTURAL INCAPACITY



Cultural Competency Continuum

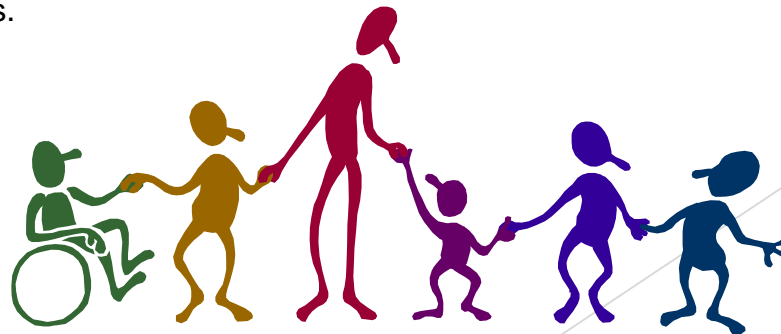
CULTURAL BLINDNESS



Cultural Competency Continuum

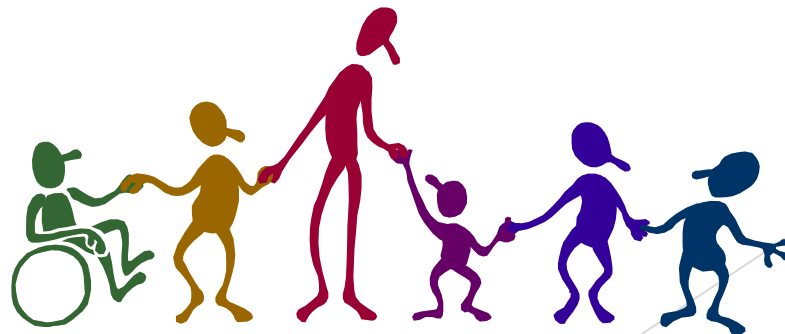
CULTURAL PRE- COMPETENCE

J. L. Mason, M. P. Benjamin, & S. A. Lewis (1993) – The cultural competence model: Implications for child and family mental health services.



Cultural Competency Continuum

CULTURAL COMPETENCE



Love is not obedience,
conformity, or submission.
It is a counterfeit love that
is contingent upon
authority, punishment, or
reward. True love is
respect and admiration,
compassion and kindness,
freely given by a healthy,
unafraid human being....

Dan Barker

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How can we
use literature
to show love
to the
children we
serve?

How can we
use literature
to support
students in
loving
themselves
and others?

Students need to see themselves represented in literature.



Intentional Text Selection



Culturally Relevant Literature Promotes

- ▶ Forming self-identity
- ▶ Making friends
- ▶ Building self-awareness and awareness of the needs of others
- ▶ Communication and social skills
- ▶ Social problem solving abilities
- ▶ Empathy
- ▶ Perspective

And many more!

“ When children cannot find themselves reflected in the books they read, or when the images they see are distorted, negative or laughable, they learn a powerful lesson about how they are devalued in the society of which they are a part. ”

-Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop

“Daring leaders are never silent about hard things.”-Brene’ Brown

Reflect:

A. Do you believe all students are visible in your current literature curriculum?

- ▶ If yes, please share!
- ▶ If no, what are the challenges or opportunities to increase culturally relevant texts?



What is one step you can take to get started, or get better at promoting the use of culturally relevant texts?





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