

Authentic Cultural Experiences

Relevant Satellite Accreditation Standards

IV. Supporting Children's Development

D. The provider assures respect for the diversity that exists within the community.

4. The provider introduces cultural activities based on the authentic experiences of children, families, and the provider herself rather than on stereotyped images of various cultures.



Bambinos Early Childhood Centre



The Nest Schools Little Stars



Early Learning & Kindergarten

The Basics



"Ms. Dalia!! Jayden is patting the baby to sleep in the crib. He needs to rock her."

"There are so many ways to help babies fall asleep! You are both so kind to your baby."



Culture is shared beliefs, values, history, language, and practices within a group. Like in the scenario above, it is complex and influences children's development and learning. When educators explore culture solely through celebrations, art, music, and food, children learn of diverse groups as separate and in a generalized, stereotypical matter.

Why is attention to cultural diversity important? Early childhood education settings offer a unique opportunity to teach young children openness, acceptance, and respect of cultural diversity. When educators understand and value the individual cultures of the children in their program and the broader community, they create welcoming learning environments in which children of all backgrounds thrive. Children begin to appreciate similarities and differences among individuals when educators embrace curiosity, reframe stereotypes, and model acceptance. Cultural representation and exploration in an early childhood program also supports young children's self-development, self-esteem, and sense of belonging.

[How can I incorporate culture diversity authentically?](#) Learn about families' beliefs, values, and practices. Develop a deeper understanding of the diverse cultures in your community. Appreciate more fully how personal beliefs, values, and practices influence your interactions with others. Integrate cultural experiences in everyday practice through materials, media, literature, traditions, routines, rituals, language, discussions, and food. Involve family and community members in your program. Be open with children about diversity in conversation, naming and reframing stereotypes children learn through media. Ensure all children and their unique cultural experiences held in mind when developing and implementing program curriculum.

[I want to learn more!](#)

- [How to avoid a tokenistic or 'tourism' approach to diversity](#) (Article)
- [Capitalizing on Culture: Engaging Young Learners in Diverse Classrooms](#) (Article)
- [Role of Equity and Diversity in Early Childhood Education](#) (Book)
- [Diverse Books for All Coalition](#) (Database)

[Books available through Satellite's lending library:](#)

(for Satellite participating programs only)

- *Leading Anti-Bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide for Change* (Derman-Sparks, LeeKeenan, & Nimmo, 2015)
- *What If All the Kids Are White? Anti-Bias Multicultural Education with Young Children and Families* (Ramsey & Derman-Sparks, 2006)
- *Connections & Commitments: Reflecting Latino Values in Early Childhood Programs* (Eggers-Piérola, 2005)

