

Raising Children in a Diverse World



We Live In A Multi-Cultural World



Objectives

- Make children proud of their own heritage
- Introduce children to other cultures, religions, races, etc.
- Help parents answer tough questions
- Provide tips on teaching diversity
- Help protect your child from discrimination
- Inspire you to be a good role model

Recognizing Differences

- Between ages 2-5 children start becoming aware of differences in:
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Disabilities
- Children's opinions are based on:
 - Their parents
 - Caregivers and schools
 - Peers
 - The media

Celebrate Your Own Heritage

- Explain your family roots and history
- Teach your beliefs
- Celebrate your differences
- Avoid stereotypes within your family
- Build self-esteem
- Instill pride

Tips For Teaching Diversity

- Compare your family cultures and traditions to those of others
- Introduce language, foods, costumes, stories or songs from different cultures
- Recognize cultural holidays
- Hang a world map to emphasize the many cultures around the world

Tips For Teaching Diversity (cont.)

- Test their knowledge
- Show pictures of different people and places
- Read and research together
- Find out what programs are offered in schools

Tips For Teaching Diversity (cont.)

- Travel
- Expose them to different social classes
- Teach them a foreign language

Use Media To Teach Diversity

- Encourage programs that show:
 - Diverse people, cultures, roles, etc.
 - Men and women in nontraditional roles
 - People of color in leadership positions
 - People with disabilities doing activities familiar to children
 - Various types of families and family activities
- Read and discuss current events and world news
- Relay stories about real people

Play “What If” games....

How Would You Feel If

- You were the only one in the class who didn't speak English?
- You had to move to a new country?
- Someone laughed at you because you were too fat or skinny?
- You were confined to a wheelchair?
- Your family could not afford to buy new clothes or shoes?

What Would You Do If....

- A person with different religious beliefs asked you out on a date?
- Someone beat you up just because they didn't like the looks of you.
- You saw someone else being discriminated against?

Answer Questions Honestly

- Don't laugh
- Don't get mad
- Be honest
- Be prepared

Be A Good Role Model

- Do you have any hidden biases?
- Do you socialize with people from different races, religions, cultures, and socio-economic status?
 - Do your children?
- Are you tolerant of same-sex or biracial marriages?
 - Would you be accepting if your child was in a non-traditional relationship?
- How do you handle it if other family members display biased attitudes in front of you?
- If others make negative or prejudice comments toward you, how do you handle?

Teach By Example

- Volunteer
- Donate clothes and toys
- Hire an au-pair
- Host an exchange student
- Be creative

Resources

- Kids Health - www.kidshealth.org
- Teaching Tolerance - www.tolerance.org
- Understanding Prejudice - www.understandingprejudice.org

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