

Tips for Promoting the Acceptance of Diversity or Differences



What is diversity?

- Differences in people including race, skin tones, religion, cultural traditions, abilities, ages, and gender roles
- Diversity is often expressed through food, clothing, language, religion, music, art and family traditions.

Why are diverse materials important?

- Children learn to accept and respect differences when they engage with people and materials from different cultures.
- Children feel a sense of belonging when they can see children who look like themselves in books, posters, dolls, and the other materials in the room.
- Their self-worth increases when they learn more about their backgrounds and the backgrounds of others.

To promote children's acceptance of diversity or differences

- Use books, dolls, posters, and artwork that show people of different races and cultures throughout your rooms
- Provide books, posters, board games, cards, lacing cards, magnetic dress up people, puppets and props, and blocks with pictures of people
 - of various races and ages
 - with varying abilities
 - in non-stereotypical gender roles
 - with glasses and using wheelchairs, canes or walkers
- Ask families to share their traditions and special holidays by bringing in clothing, music, pictures of traditional events, and food to talk about and display.
- Display diverse plastic foods, empty food boxes, cooking utensils, such as woks, and menus with pictures of different foods.
- Cook varied foods, learn songs and dances from other cultures, and use musical instruments from around the world.
- Children imitate the adults in their lives so always model positive interactions and experiences with everyone.
- Take a moment to consider how you promote the acceptance of differences in your program. Ask yourself if you have materials that reflect everyone in your care.
- Create a list of diverse materials in the play areas to identify areas for improvement.

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