

**Effective Culturally and Developmentally Appropriate Practices to  
Support Early Learning  
March 24, 2021 Webinar  
Supplement**

The Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC)  
Recommends these 10 Keys to Culturally Sensitive Care

**Key #1- Cultural Consistency**

**Infants-** Have the same educator care for the infant from birth through 18 months. if possible, even in your infant classroom, age range may only go to 12 months. It would benefit the infant to have the educator follow the infant to another classroom as they transition to another classroom.

**Toddlers-** Post pictures of their families, where they live, and their favorite food.

**Key #2- Work Toward Representative Staffing**

**Infants-** Hire staff that are representative of the children and speak the same language, if possible.

**Toddlers-** Post pictures of staff who work in the program that are representative of the children served.



**Key #3- Create Small Groups**

**Infants-** Have small educator-child ratio which allows to meet the needs of infants. 1-2 or 1-3 ratios are better educator-child ratios.

**Toddlers-** if the number of toddlers cannot be reduced in a classroom then group toddlers in small numbers in the same classroom.

**Key #4- Use the Child's Home Language**

**Infants-** Sing lullabies that are familiar to the infant in their native language, if possible.

**Toddlers-** Use rhymes and songs that are familiar to toddlers and related to their culture.

**Key #5- Make Environments Relevant**

**Infants-** Attempt to create an atmosphere that is similar to the infant's home environment. Ask the infant's family about their nap environment at home.

**Toddlers-** Use holiday decorations and describe words that relate to their holiday. Add props in the classroom that may be similar to their home.



**Key #6- Uncover Your Cultural Beliefs**

**Infants-** Reflect on your cultural roots related to child-care practices. Compare and how they differ from the families you serve. It's important to be aware because they may differ.

**Toddlers-** Ask families the words or phrases that capture their cultural beliefs. Reflect on those and think of ways to incorporate some beliefs into your classroom.

**Key #7- Be Open to the Perspectives of Others**

**Infants-** Consider conversations with families about their childrearing practices and reflect on your own. Compare the similarities and differences and determine a healthy junction.

**Toddlers-** Offer children's books from different racial and ethnic cultures and point out the differences with positive comments and acceptance.

**Key #8- Seek Out Cultural and Family Information**

**Infants-** Consider creating documents that gathers cultural information about families.

**Toddlers-** Learn what are the three most important things for each family you serve. Keep a journal and reflect on ways to incorporate their priorities into your classroom environment, schedule, and transitions.



**Key #9- Clarify Values**

**Infants-** Offer opportunities for continuous conversations with families about what they value related to their infant.

**Toddlers-** Inquire with families about cultural approaches on social and emotional issues while working with toddlers and consider sharing approaches that you may use in the classroom.

**Key #10- Negotiate Cultural Conflicts**

**Infants-** At times of miscommunication, be persistent to mend the relationship and consider what would be the best approach; developmentally, professionally, and culturally for the infant.

**Toddlers-** Negotiate with the intent of valuing the families' perspective and your knowledge about developmentally appropriate practices and quality child-care.



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Multicultural children's Games & Music Resources:

#### Cultural Games

- <https://www.parents.com/search/?q=games+from+around+the+world>
- <http://www.beafunmum.com/2012/11/games-from-around-the-world/>
- <https://www.incultureparent.com/?s=5+board+games+from+around+the+world>

#### Music

- <https://www.songsforteaching.com/diversitymulticulturalism.htm>
- <https://www.kimboed.com/bestmulticulturalsongsforkids.aspx>
- <https://childrensmusic.org/songs/multicultural>

#### Musical Instruments

- <https://makingmulticulturalmusic.wordpress.com/tag/instruments-from-around-the-world-for-kids/>
- <https://www.teaching.com.au/search?action=search&q=multicultural+instruments>

Multicultural Children's Books:

#### General

- Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem About China, Ed Young, Chronicle Books
- Cuckoo, Cucu', Lois Ehlert, Scholastic Books
- Children Just Like Me: A unique celebration of children around the world, Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley, DK Publishing, INC
- Wake Up, World! A Day in the Life of Children Around the World, Beatrice Hollyer, Henry Holt and Company
- Mixed: A Colorful Story, Arree Chung, Macmillia



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## **Variety of Cultures**

- Raven – A trickster tale from the Pacific Northwest, Gerald McDermott, Scholastic
- The Woman Who Outshone the Sun, Alejandro Cruz Martinez, Scholastic
- Where is Gah-ning? Robert Munsch, Annick Press
- Abiyoyo, Pete Seeger, Scholastic
- The Hole in the Dike, Norma Green, Scholastic
- Three Samurai Cats, Eric Kimmel, Scholastic
- Just Plain Fancy, Patricia Polacco, Dell Publishing

## **Self**

- There is a Flower at the Tip of My Nose Smelling Me, Alice Walker, Harper Collins
- Amazing Grace, Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch, Scholastic
- Boundless Grace, Mary Hoffman and Caroline Binch, Scholastic

## **Families**

- My Family, Your Family, Kindergarten Children, Westfield School, Modern Curriculum Press
- We Are All Alike...We Are All Different..., Cheltenham Elementary Kindergarten, Scholastic
- The Relatives Came, Cynthia Rylant, Aladdin Books

## **Food Related**

- Strega Nona Meets her Match, Tomie dePaola, G.P. Putnam's Sons
- Too Many Tamales Gary Soto and Ed Martinez Putnam
- Potluck Anne Shelby Orchard Books
- Latkes and Applesauce Fran Manushkin Scholastic

## **Holidays**

- Chicken Sunday, Patricia Polacco, Scholastic
- A Jewish Holiday ABC, Malka Drucker and Rita Pocock, Trumpet Club
- The Trees off the Dancing Goats, Patricia Polacco, Trumpet Club



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