

BEHAVIORAL SENSIBILITIES

Cultural Diversity, Social Awareness and General Civilities

CULTURES share patterns of behavior, socially, economically and politically. We now have a formation of cross-cultures, creating more depth, social demands and misunderstandings. This can be generational (teachers, parents, authority figures) versus the students or children at home. It can also be within same cultures; with traditional international Old World ways versus newly formed cultural acceptance. Then, the groups in school with mixed cultures, traditional and new, to even more fluid or transient trends and fads. Cultural differences can create both problems and opportunities. Professional instruction in cultural sensitivity can help solve one and seize the other.

COPING with change requires realistic expectations, new skills taught, a depth of comprehension of each culture, sub-culture and changing ones, and a lot of patience. Cultural diversity is no longer defined by race only, as one must include experiences, attitudes, and more personal aspects that are considerations for all races, backgrounds and talents.

COMMUNICATION is the key essential element. We must give permission and request permission to bridge the differences, in an area that is safe and non-judgmental. Information and education of new and appropriate skills are important to an agreement of acceptance. If we change our attitudes, we change our reactions to one another and our lives, based on mutual respect.

ACCEPTANCE is learned by comparisons. What may be kind in one culture can be considered rude in another. Once one knows what is perceived and what impression one is conveying, then one feels open to discuss further actions, which can lead to trust. Discussion and role-playing of activities at home, in class, during breaks, after school, special social gatherings help to understand the differences and clear many misconceptions.

THOSE MAKING A NEW HOME IN AMERICA. Living in a different country, learning a new language and culture are always a challenge. We will inform you of ways that will help you understand the cultural differences and will help make the transition easier.

“Polish the rogue within.”

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