

Multicultural Education

- Adapted from “Roots & Wings” By Stacey York Chapter 7
Multicultural Education can mean different things to different people.
- What is Multiculturalism?
- A field of study (In its own right, multicultural education is an entire area of specialization within various fields such as education, counseling, psychology, and public health.
- A way to reform schools
- An umbrella term for many different curriculum models that try to incorporate culture or diversity in to the curriculum.
- A factor at all levels of education (Individuals and institutions serving children from pre-kindergarten through graduate school are involved in multicultural education.
- Multicultural education challenges and rejects racism and other forms of discrimination in schools and society and accepts and affirms the pluralism (ethnic, racial, linguistic, religious, economic, and gender, among others) that students, their communities, and teachers represent.

Multicultural education in the U.S. is an approach to teaching and learning that is based on democratic values and beliefs, and affirms cultural pluralism within culturally diverse societies and an interdependent world.

- Multicultural education is at least three things: an idea concept, an educational reform movement, and a process.
- It incorporates the idea that all students, regardless of their gender, social, ethnic, racial or cultural characteristics, should have an equal opportunity to learn in school.

- It is a reform movement designed to make some changes in schools and other educational institutions so that students from all social classes, gender, racial, and cultural groups will have an equal opportunity to learn.
- It is an ongoing process whose goals, which include educational equality and improving academic achievement, will never be realized because they are ideals toward which human beings work but never attain.
- In early childhood settings, multicultural education begins with knowing, respecting, and setting high expectations for each child in your classroom.
- It means providing a classroom that includes materials depicting people from many different places doing many different things.
- Divergent questions are utilized when a teacher asks open ended questions to promote critical thinking.
- Children's self-esteem is influenced by the extent to which they achieve their culture's preferred social interaction style.
- When it comes to the use of color in the classroom teachers need to Focus on including multicultural skin colors both paints and crayons in the classroom & focus on including activities that incorporate the use of darker colors.
- An example of a divergent question could be
- How would you want another person to talk to you?
- One of the key points in valuing diversity in the classroom is to understand and include activities that are sensitive to differences in a positive way.

- In regards to the environment and the use of color, one of the reasons that black and brown are left over at the end of the year is that children are taught to prefer lighter colors.
- The development of racial identity differs from other areas of child development by the timing and order of stages varies from person to person and parents and their awareness of racial identity affects how a child develops.

- One pitfall to focusing on activities that emphasize the concepts of sameness and difference is that children may begin to think different is bad and things that are different don't belong.
- Culturally relevant, anti-bias education is the most current term for a comprehensive approach to multicultural education in early childhood settings.