

Cultural Influences on Communication

- Cultural Influences on Communication Skills and Styles Adapted from Ch 5 Working with Children from culturally Diverse Backgrounds M. Diane Klein & Deborah Chen.
 - Communication skills provide the foundation on which the literacy skills of reading and reading and writing develop
 - The ability to use language effectively in different situations and for different purposes is crucial to the development of social skills
 - The development of communication skills depends on the early adult-child interaction experienced by young children
 - The ways in which language is learned, used, and spoken is determined by culture and varies significantly among cultures.
 - Working with young children, you will find that language and communication skills are not only crucial to children's development but also are vulnerable to environmental influences.
 - Many studies show that how parents talk to their children, and how they respond to children's communicative attempts, have significant effects on the development of language (Gottfried, 1984; Dellacorte, Benedict, & Klein, 1983)
 - Adult Child Interaction : Strategies for developing cognitive and linguistic skills for many cultures.
 - 1. Repetition of key words and phrases appears to be important in helping children learn language.
 - 2. Recasting is related to repetition in that it involves restating ones own words and sentences in slightly different ways.
 - 3. Expansion involves taking the word the child says and expanding it into a longer sentence.
- Some middle class caregivers become linguistically fine-tuned to their children's experiences.
- Remember different cultures encourage different types of narrative genres.
 - Children's use of narrative in different cultures include the following
 - Recounts
 - Eventcasts
 - Accounts
 - Stories
 - One general communication strategy discussed in chapter 5 is avoid correcting children's grammar.

- Chapter 5 discusses research that states, there are cognitive advantages to becoming proficient in more than one language.
- Strategies that support language development include;
 - Observe child carefully and respond to communicative intent
 - Match language to experience
 - Use referential language and labels
 - Use repetition and redundancy
- Additional strategies for children who speak little English
 - Respect the silent period
 - Speak clearly and not too rapidly
 - Use comprehensible input such as visual cues and actions
- Use consistent language to announce routine events
- Compare native and English vocabulary
- Use indirect methods to model grammar corrections
- Special considerations for children from culturally diverse backgrounds:
 - Do not pressure quiet children to talk
 - Avoid over-reliance on eventcasts and recounts
 - Repeat favorite stories using props and actions; explicitly model story structures
- Create small group problem- solving and cooperative learning projects
- Avoid overemphasis on object play; include social-affective play themes
- Make maximum use of music and rhythm, choral responding, and call and response activities.
- Select books with universal themes.