

### Being Responsive to Children and Families: *Culturally Responsive Practices*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

#### THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

- **Reflect with Others**

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

- **The Power of Practice**

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

#### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- How do I make children and families feel welcome in my program?
- What are some examples of how I set up a culturally responsive environment? What might I add?
- What makes me feel respected and honored when people interact with me? How can I interact respectfully and authentically with children and families from different cultures?
- What small changes can I make in my practice to plan learning experiences that are culturally responsive?
- How can I stretch myself to intentionally weave culturally responsive care into my daily routines and curriculum?

#### TRY IT OUT!

Think about your current focus of exploration (e.g., families, gardening, moving objects). Plan culturally responsive learning experiences related to your current focus.

Invite families' input.

- Learn about specific cultural views or traditions related to the focus of exploration.
- Invite families to share songs, stories, or nursery rhymes in their home language.
- Discuss with families how you could use cultural objects such as clothing, musical instruments, or kitchen items in the daily routines or curriculum, and learn about the traditions or values these items represent.

Plan culturally responsive learning experiences.

- Think about how to incorporate this cultural view or tradition into your current plan.
- Decide where and how you will incorporate the new song, story, or object into the routines or curriculum. Invite families to take part in or lead this learning experience.
- Introduce new vocabulary and spark rich discussions about this cultural tradition, song, story, or object.
- Observe how children engage with the new song, story, or object.

#### How Did It Go?

After facilitating a culturally responsive learning experience, reflect on how you think this experience made the children feel and what the children learned. What worked and why?

#### What Next?

Try this exercise when planning other culturally responsive learning experiences based on different children's cultures. Check out the next pack, *Engaging Families*, to learn more about how to partner with families in supporting children's development and learning.