



## HEAD START PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

### SUPPORT A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING CURRICULUM!

#### Part 1302- Program Operations

- Subpart C –Education and Child Development Program Services
  - 1302.30 Purpose /1302.35 Education in Home-Based Programs
- Subpart E – Family and Community Engagement Program Services
  - 1302.50 (b)(2)

All programs must deliver developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate learning experiences in language, literacy, mathematics, social and emotional functioning, approaches to learning, science, physical skills, and creative arts.

In addition, program staff must develop relationships with parents and structure services to encourage trust and respectful, ongoing two-way communication between staff and parents. This creates welcoming program environments that incorporate the unique cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds of families in the program and community.



1. With a culturally responsive approach to implementing a curriculum, education staff provide interactions, learning experiences, and environments that build on the knowledge and skills children have developed within their families and cultures. Home visitors partner with families to support their children’s learning and development in ways that build on the family’s culture. This strength-based approach promotes school readiness.
2. Cultural responsiveness is included in the Head Start Early Learning Outcome Framework (ELOF). One of the ELOF’s guiding principles states “Every child has diverse strengths rooted in their family’s culture, background, language, and beliefs. Responsive and respectful learning environments welcome children and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Effective teaching practices and learning experiences build on the unique backgrounds and prior experiences of each child” (p.3). Cultural responsiveness supports learning and development for children from all cultures and backgrounds.
3. Cultural responsiveness is part of your ongoing practice and interactions with children and families. This is not an additional curriculum piece you have to add to your planning and practices. Cultural responsiveness is embedded in your relationships and the learning experiences, environments, and materials that you provide!

