



MULTICULTURAL PRINCIPLES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERS

Culture is a fundamental feature of Head Start program systems and services. The *Multicultural Principles* handbook was published in 1991. *Revisiting and Updating the Multicultural Principles for Head Start Programs Serving Children Ages Birth to Five* updates this information and research.

This handbook outlines 10 multicultural principles and provides research and guidance to support each principle. Each principle includes professional development activities with learning extensions that include questions and/or discussion activities. Head Start programs may download the individual chapters or the entire resource in English or Spanish to use for their professional learning activities or for personal professional development. The link to this resource is: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/multicultural-principles-early-childhood-leaders>

Every Early Head Start and Head Start Program must understand and address culture and tribal languages. This suite references many of these principles. We recommend that you become familiar with each of these principles.

Principle 1: Every individual is rooted in culture

Principle 2: The cultural groups represented in the communities and families of each Head Start program are the primary sources for culturally relevant programming.

Principle 3: Culturally relevant and diverse programming requires learning accurate information about the cultures of different groups and discarding stereotypes.

Principle 4: Addressing cultural relevance in making curriculum choices and adaptations is a necessary, developmentally appropriate practice.

Principle 5: Every individual has the right to maintain his or her own identity while acquiring the skills required to function in our diverse society.

Principle 6: Effective programs for children who speak languages other than English require continued development of the first language while the acquisition of English is facilitated.

Principle 7: Culturally relevant programming requires staff who both reflect and are responsive to the community and families served.

Principle 8: Multicultural programming for children enables children to develop an awareness of, respect for, and appreciation of individual and cultural differences.

Principle 9: Culturally relevant and diverse programming examines and challenges institutional and personal biases.

Principle 10: Culturally relevant and diverse programming and practices are incorporated in all systems and services and are beneficial to all adults and children.