



HIGHSCOPE®

The Classroom Family: Building a Community that Embraces Multiculturalism



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My Multicultural Self Activity

Who am I and what is my culture?

When is a time I felt very proud? When is a time I was stereotyped by this?

What are my traditions? Values? Beliefs? Foods? Music?



In HighScope classrooms, we strive to accept, value, and build on what children bring from their home cultures.

Goals:

- ▶ Make children feel comfortable in the program.
- ▶ Strengthen the positive impressions they have of their own cultures.
- ▶ Help them see the linkages between their homes, their communities, and their schools.

What makes a Classroom family? A multi cultural Classroom

Multicultural Classroom is one in which both the students and the teacher are accepting of all races, cultures, and religions. This acceptance is evidenced by the books that are read, the activities that are completed, and the lessons that are taught.

- ▶ **Source :** <http://www.pre-kpages.com/multicultural.html>

We want to add materials to the classroom that reflect children's home and community experiences and we can do this by learning from:

- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Children

Steps in creating a classroom that offers many cultural learning opportunities:

1. We as adults must develop an awareness of our own cultures.
 1. Recognize any biases or stereotypes you may have absorbed.
2. Bring children's home cultures into the early childhood setting.

1. Treat each student as an individual and respect each student for who he or she is.

Additional Resources

<http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/index.html>

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Implementation

Identify two strategies from today's workshop you will use to strengthen the teams you work with and list them below.

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