



Culture In Context

Culture plays a huge role in who families are, the lives they live, the expectations of their child, and the experiences they have. As professionals working with families of diverse cultures, being respectful of families' cultures and working alongside them to better understand their culture is essential for providing the best possible supports.

Points to consider:

- Use initial visits with families as opportunities to gain a better understanding of their culture and the families' values.
- When in doubt, ask! Do not make assumptions when supporting families. Asking questions will provide better clarity and understanding.
- Lack of trust and suspicion of agencies can influence how services are viewed by some families. It is essential that practitioners develop collaborative relationships with families and treat them with respect. While practitioners are experts on child development, family and other caregivers are the experts on their children. Ensure that families are at the center of decision-making and involved in every step of supports provided.
- Use a strengths-based perspective when supporting families. Consider what families know and offer, rather than what you perceive that they do not know. Ask questions such as "What do you know about?" to gain insight on what a family knows before sharing information.