

## Cultural Diversity in the Early Childhood Classroom

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Each year, Family and Consumer Science agents across Arkansas offer professional development hours to childcare providers within their counties. This year, the lessons included the topic of cultural diversity and inclusivity in the early childhood classroom. Cultural diversity in early childhood classrooms provide a range of opportunities for children and families to celebrate their differences. Below are some culturally responsive strategies that childcare providers can use.



**Learn about children and families.** Teachers should learn about each child and their family and intentionally adapt to those children's strengths and needs. Make ways to learn more about the child's family life and incorporate it into their classroom experience.

**Develop and teach expectations.** These expectations should be linked to the values and culture of children, families, and teachers.

**Develop and teach empathy.** Teachers can model empathetic behavior by showing warm and responsive actions and can use books, games, and music to teach empathy.

**Use self-reflection and take perspective.** Teachers should question themselves to make sure that they aren't holding any biases against their families and students. In addition, teachers should try to understand how someone else's view of a situation is different from theirs.

*The information in this article was sourced from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. For more information and additional resources, visit [www.neayc.org](http://www.neayc.org).*

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