Culturally Responsive Counseling: What to Consider?

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Objectives

- Promote an understanding and appreciation of differences
- Enhance abilities to apply new knowledge to our lives and practice
“Culturally responsive practice begins with the counselor's commitment to a lifelong process of learning about diverse people across cultures and life spans” (p. 61).
Golden Rule

- Buddhism: Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.
- Hinduism: This is the sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you.
- Confucianism: Do not do to others what you would not like yourself. Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state.
- Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest.
Comprehensive School Counseling Program Affirms Diversity

National Model

- assisting in creating a school climate where cultural diversity is celebrated; curriculum, textbooks, pedagogy, and classroom management methods are inclusive; and cultural relations within the school are encouraged and embraced;
- being actively involved in the community through advocacy, networking and utilization of resources, and ensure a welcoming school environment; and
- enhancing their own cultural competence, and facilitate the cultural awareness, knowledge, and skills of all school personnel.

NC Professional SC Standards

- fostering a school environment in which each child has a positive, nurturing relationship with caring adults;
- embracing diversity in the school community & in the world;
- treating students as individuals;
- recognizing students are diverse & adapt their services accordingly; and
- working collaboratively with the families and significant adults in the lives of students.
Race, Ethnicity, & Culture Defined

- Race – physical characteristics
- Ethnicity - cultural heritage from one generation to another
- Culture - traditions, values, norms, and behavior
New Ways of Considering Student Groups

- Heritage and Historic Memory
- Geographic or Regional Origins
- Circumstance and Situation
- Affinity or Relational Bonds
Different Abilities

- Physical Limitations
- Developmental & Cognitive Differences
- Learning Differences
- Gifted Learners
Aesthetic Concerns

- Body size and shape
- Clothing, hair, and makeup
- Body art and piercing
- Braces, scars, and acne
Environmental Concerns

- Abuse and violence at home
- Harassment, bullying, and school violence
- Disasters

"It shouldn't hurt to be a child."
Gender & Sexuality Concerns

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Questioning (LGBTQ)
  - Students
  - Parents
  - Educators
- Abstinence and purity
Coming Full Circle...

“Culturally responsive practice begins with the counselor’s commitment to a lifelong process of learning about diverse people across cultures and life spans” (p. 61).
References


