

Research

As the education curriculum evolves and continues to look perfect, the more they further themselves without even noticing. A classroom becomes a child's second home, where kids are supposed to be interacting with others, learning, having fun, discovering themselves, and finally getting glimpses of independence for their future. The changes that teachers intended to implement in their own classrooms have been set aside in favor of corporate publications and strategically organized mini-lessons. One major aspect that has been overlooked in these corporate mini-lessons is cultural responsiveness. Bringing culture in a classroom is very important in a child's life, it makes them who they are, it is what they've been raised with, what they respect, what they believe in and it has been slowly shutting down in a place where they are supposed to be learning and embracing themselves.

Article One

Being able to incorporate cultural responsiveness in all subjects is very important and very beneficial in their learning process. In the article Training youth program staff on the importance of cultural responsiveness and humility: Current status and future directions in professional development the author broken down beneficial information about each part that in corporation being overlooked. There were a lot of segments spoken about such as confidence, development, progress, etc. and they all met up at the starting point of culture. This article speaks about the unspoken, about how cultural responsiveness is very important in a classroom. Cultural responsiveness makes up everything in each child and it is yet one of the things teachers are lacking during their training. Throughout the article the author continued to speak about certain subjects such as literature and how cultural responsiveness increases the progression in a child. In the article it states “ Cultural beliefs can have an important role in which developmental assets

are emphasized in a family and community as well as how those assets manifest.” (Richmond October 2018, Pages 501-507) Not just that but it also states “Culture can play a significant role in how each of the six Cs are defined, which ones are most valued, and how they are expressed within a family and community.” (Richmond October 2018, Pages 501-507) These details are very essential when creating a one stage learning book because there are many other outside aspects into learning. All connections and details broken down all connect to cultural responsiveness.

In this article the author is trying to both inform and persuade. This is shown by the author also including youth programming and involving the childrens family. The author also continuously evaluated each of her details with beneficial outcomes on children which was also backed up with done research. Because of these reasons, this article was selected selected to make cultural responsiveness a focus view in books, lessons, centers, programs, etc. When some teachers think back to their elementary years they remember their teachers only carrying printed books and following made lessons. There is a lot of timed work that has to be followed by schedule but no time of speaking to others about their memories and learning about other cultures with their peers or embracing their traditions. Majoring in education is a passion. Being able to work with kids and teaching them is love, connecting with the kids and being a big part of who they will become is a big part of me. Teaching is more than books, it is learning about what is around us, learning is embracing books your own way, learning is making mistakes, being messy, socializing, and teachers get that passion taken away by books once entering the field and lack training on what real teaching should be involved with. Just like the author states “It is important that professional development for youth program staff incorporate content that teaches

them how to identify and celebrate cultural diversity within youth programs in order to foster connections despite differences.”(Richmond October 2018, Pages 501-507)

Article Two

A second article that was chosen was about embracing diversity, which the world has been facing beyond historical textbooks. The article “Cultural proficiency for teachers can no longer be an option” by Tamra Simpson advocates about being able to speak up about different cultures and races. This is very important because the world has been through so many racial fights amongst one another instead of embracing one another's cultures and loving one another for who we are. Racism has been a sad part of our present, all the inequality, wars, protests, etc. to still see no change. This is because it is not taught to embrace culture from the beginning. The lack of training to bring cultural responsiveness in ECE classrooms and even beyond that will never make a change and a stop to racism. Young students at the age of five already know about bullying and it goes on even when we are adults where we should already be past racism. As stated in her article

“I want to be a firefighter, but then I will have to work with the police...and what if they kill me on purpose?” said my son Asher, a second-grader. Coming from an 8-year-old, these words should be shocking. What’s shocking is that they aren’t. I fear that far too many educators and educational leaders are not prepared to respond to the heartache and expressions of despair that may come from our students of color, especially in the wake of George Floyd’s death and the ensuing civil unrest.” (Simpson JULY 24, 2020)

Tamra Simpson emphasized how teachers should embrace their diverse classrooms and how they should embrace the different cultures in their classroom. She does this by describing her own

experiences in the education field. If teachers allowed each student to embrace their culture everyone a student around them will learn different cultures, will learn to love their peers for being who they are and learning to love parts of their cultures and growing up with that will allow our young students (who will become our future) continue to love people for who they are and continue to love different cultures. In her article it states ‘As an educator of color, I have experienced prejudice and discrimination at school sites. I have shielded my students from stereotyping and bias. I believe these negative experiences can be reduced and hopefully eliminated with training.’ She later states (Simpson JULY 24, 2020)

“What I would share with the teachers who are uncertain about pursuing professional development in cultural proficiency is that the learning process truly ignites your “why.” Building my capacity so that I could support the learning and identities of all of my students is the greatest reward. Furthermore, seeing the outcomes in student achievement is gratifying. Students are better able to take in knowledge and create new knowledge when they feel safe, valued and affirmed in their learning environment.”

She went on to describe her own interactions with a particular kid, how he had negative experiences with previous teachers because of his culture, and how when she got to know him well, he felt at ease and started contributing to class. Even among adults working with students, culture is crucial. Teachers should receive training in this area to ensure that no student ever feels unwelcome because of their culture.

For this article Tamra Simpson’s goal was to inform the audience and the soon to be teachers. She informs her audience about how important diversity is and how important it is to have it embraced and welcomed. For the soon to be teachers she is informing that every student is welcomed, every culture should be spoken about and loved, no student should feel like they

are unheard because of their culture and she accomplished both audiences with her experience and her further training in cultural responsiveness. This article was chosen because there were different forms of racial discrimination, Tamra with her coworker and Tamra's student with his previous teacher. Discrimination is everywhere and it should come to an end, Tamra went to further training even already being in the field because there is lack of continuous training once in the education field. If Tamra's student's previous teacher started her education in classrooms where diversity was welcomed, there would be no barrier between her and the student, if there was more training on culture responsiveness and an emphasis to continue learning to embrace culture there would be no barrier. There is so much racism around the world that we have to protect our kids from continuing it or experiencing it from one another. Cultural responsiveness comes in different forms, young children should not be afraid to speak to someone of a different skin tone or different physical appearance. Teachers should be able to speak to her students about culture and race and teach kids that we should all love another.

Article Three

The third chosen article is "A Troubling Lack of Diversity in Educational Materials" by Amanda Armstrong. In this article, Amanda Armstrong pointed out all the flaws that are being made in child advertisements. Amanda believes that this should be worked on so children can be introduced to different cultures and will be able to learn about different views, different sexualities, etc. In her article she states

"Teaching and learning experts have emphasized the importance of cultural responsiveness in fostering engaging learning experiences for students. Educators who use this approach make connections between the curriculum and students' experiences, affirm and

integrate students' culture in the environment, build on their preexisting knowledge and skills to learn content, and enhance their accurate knowledge of diverse people and different perspectives.” (Armstrong March 9, 2022)

Throughout the article, there were a lot of topics brought up and how minimized cultural responsiveness is such as kid books, rewards, educational software. Etc. In the article it states “Studies of children’s books indicate that most of the characters within the sample are White, ranging from half to 90 percent of the illustrations. Characters who represent Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities are about 10 percent of the illustrations or fewer, with some ethnic and racial groups featured at 1 percent. Textbook analyses indicate that European White Americans are featured in half or more of pictorials and illustrations (in some cases more than 80 percent), and people of BIPOC communities are featured less frequently, with some groups featured as low as 1 percent. Both cases differ from U.S. Census demographics.”

It also states “Researchers identified patterns of narrow and problematic portrayals, and also promising and positive depictions that may vary with each racial and ethnic group, such as mixing elements of tribal groups when presenting Native Americans or Asian Americans in lifestyles from several centuries in the past.” (Armstrong March 9, 2022) The lack of cultural responsiveness is a big deal, there have been limits to children when it comes to their learning, reading, writing, views, etc. Corporations lack the embracement of culture and different physical looks to children. There should be books about different cultures, different foods, different languages, different dances, different hairstyles, different clothes, different skin colors, different but showing how it makes them beautiful. The lack of cultural representation will not allow kids to explore and be who they are, it will allow the stereotypes to continue, all the racism continue, the judging, the low self esteem, etc. Culture is what makes a student and allowing kids to learn

to love their culture and love themselves should be in a classroom where students will love their peers and learn about who they are. Amanda Armstrong used studies and numbers to make her point about the lack of culture, she continued to point out the repetitive pattern in sections of the system where they lack to bring diversity to light.

Amanda Armstrong wrote this to inform people this problem is everywhere and how important it is for a child to feel free about their culture. This article was chosen because it pointed out all the sections in the system where they are failing to show culture to children. One good example of these points is the movie Black Panther, it was the first full black cast in such a highly regarded publisher (Marvel). After the movie dropped it was such a moving moment for the black community and such a historical movie, the day it came out and everyone was wearing their cultural clothing and all dressed up. Movements like those are movements we should all look for, all communities should be embraced that way. During the movie it showed the beauty of their culture, the love of one another through their culture, different traditions, different clothes, medication markings, etc. Every culture should be embraced for those heartwarming moments and that is what is being lacked to young children who are growing up to be our future. People from all around the world loved that movie, different races and colors, where everyone was able to love one another and there was no hate amongst anyone. That is what should be programmed for our children and it is what should be taught to our children, to love all cultures.

Culture responsiveness is definitely not something that can be changed overnight but it is something that should be started to be seen more often in books and textbooks, learn history from all around, there should be centers for kids to learn about cultures and learn more about their own. There should be excitement in our children to learn and have fun, school becomes a child's second home from a really young age and they should feel accepted for who they are by

their peers and teachers. Corporations should give teachers proper training to advocate culture responsiveness more into their lessons and less book following. Planned mini-lessons by corporations are timed and not everyone learns at the same pace or the same way. Entering the education field there is so much deeper learning to do to provide a safe place for children to be themselves and not into books.