

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES SCENARIOS

Read through the scenarios. Discuss the situations with your small group.

Scenario #1:

Ifemelu begins attending the toddler class. When the teacher is told her name, she announces, "That's too hard to pronounce. We will call you Iffie from now on."

1. What is your reaction? Why?
2. What impact does the difference in cultural practices have on the child? Why?
3. Is there another way to handle the situation?
4. How does this connect to the Gonzalez-Mena (2008) reading?

Scenario #2:

Ying uses chopsticks at home with his family, but in his toddler class he is given a spoon.

1. What is your reaction? Why?
2. What impact does the difference in cultural practices have on the child? Why?
3. Is there another way to handle the situation?
4. How does this connect to the Gonzalez-Mena (2008) reading?

Scenario #3:

Angelique, who is 10-months-old, sleeps in a family bed at home. At her group care program she is expected to sleep in a crib. Each time the caregiver tries to put her in the crib, she screams with a look of terror on her face.

1. What is your reaction? Why?
2. What impact does the difference in cultural practices have on the child? Why?
3. Is there another way to handle the situation?
4. How does this connect to the Gonzalez-Mena (2008) reading?

Scenario #4:

Eighteen-month-old Jorge cannot sleep in a quiet area. Even with the music in the nap room, Jorge cannot sleep in the nap room. He is so tired that he almost falls asleep in the classroom every day, but he is wide awake in the quiet space of the nap room.

1. What is your reaction? Why?
2. What impact does the difference in cultural practices have on the child? Why?
3. Is there another way to handle the situation?
4. How does this connect to the Gonzalez-Mena (2008) reading?

Scenario #5:

Sixteen-month-old Zed can eat independently. At home, he and his family eat with their fingers. When in group care, he is given a spoon to eat with.

1. What is your reaction? Why?
2. What impact does the difference in cultural have on the child? Why?
3. Is there another way to handle the situation?
4. How does this connect to the Gonzalez-Mena (2008) reading?

5.

Scenario #6:

Six-month-old Lek's family speak Polish. No one has spoken to him in English. He is starting group care program where the staff only speak English.

1. What is your reaction? Why?
2. What impact does the difference in cultural practices have on the child? Why?
3. Is there another way to handle the situation?
4. How does this connect to the Gonzalez-Mena (2008) reading?

Scenario #7:

Ginnika has been taught at home to only eat with her right hand. The toddler room staff insist Ginnika hold her spoon with her right hand and plate/ bowl with her left.

1. What is your reaction? Why?
2. What impact does the difference in cultural practices have on the child? Why?
3. Is there another way to handle the situation?
4. How does this connect to the Gonzalez-Mena (2008) reading?