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ECE 210: Culturally Responsive Curriculum Essay

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### Culturally Responsive Curriculum

Culture comes from different backgrounds among people, and it deeply affects our thoughts and behaviors. Therefore, the teaching of cultural response is very important for children. Teachers guide children to observe, share and understand different cultures through some cultural courses. This can help children understand the differences between cultures, cultivate positive attitudes, and reduce misunderstandings and conflicts in the future.

In the assignments of week three, we had the opportunity to share our own stories and recollections, and we learned cultural traditions and views between us. Through sharing the stories of my classmates and me, it helps me understand the cultural differences between us. Everyone has their own cultural background and family tradition. I learned about the differences and values between different cultures. This avoids unnecessary misunderstandings, and that improves our communication, and narrows the distance between us. For example, according to “I Am From...” which is written by my classmate Andrea Ricketts, she described her community, family, and the lifestyle of her. This poem made me know her cultural background, family members and lifestyle. This can help me to understand her better and communicate with her. Therefore, I think learning different cultures can help us to better understand each other and improve communication.

Cultures are diverse, and designing a culturally responsive curriculum is important. When designing a culturally responsive curriculum, teachers need to guide children from a diverse

perspective to understand the differences between cultures. Moreover, every child has his own cultural knowledge, and teachers need to know the cultural knowledge that children know before when designing. On the basis of children's own cultural knowledge and behavior, new cultural knowledge is proposed to guide the children to compare cultural differences. This meaningful design can help children to establish a connection between their own cultural knowledge and the cultural knowledge they teach, so as to better understand the knowledge of different cultures.

Moreover, when the curriculum reflects different cultures, the teacher can help children to have a better understanding of each other by guiding them to understand the cultural differences between them. This can promote good communication between children, support children to cultivate positive attitudes and reduce misunderstandings in the future. In addition, it can help the communication between children's families, and it can also help communication between family and the school.

The creative arts could support the cultural response course because through creative arts activities, children can understand the cultural knowledge they have learned more concretely. Moreover, children can compare their own learning culture with their own cultural knowledge, so as to understand the views and values of different cultural information. For example, when the theme is Chinese New Year, teachers can create some activities related to Chinese New Year. In activity one, the teacher can guide the children to make Chinese New Year paper-cutting. Through the New Year paper-cutting activity, let the children compare Chinese New Year and Christmas. This can make children think about why Chinese people will cut paper during Chinese New Year? Why do these New Year's paper-cuts have to be decorated on the windows? Are these paper-cutting ornaments the same as Christmas tree ornaments? This art activity makes children think about the difference between Chinese New Year and Christmas, and better

understand the meaning of this festival. In activity two, the teacher can ask the children to draw their family's traditional New Year food. Through sharing their own New Year's dinner, let children know about the dietary differences of different cultures, so as to guide children to know about Chinese New Year's Eve dinner culture. Moreover, teachers can also make children think about why this holiday is important to Asian Americans? Why did we set up the Chinese New Year public holiday? These problems might expand children's learning about culture.

On the other hand, through reading "The Colors of Us" to children, I can guide children to understand the cultural differences between different races. For example, by letting children observe themselves, creating self-portraits and sharing a story about themselves with others. Children can know different cultural knowledge that makes the world beautiful and unique, so as to develop a positive attitude to face different cultural knowledge.

Designing a culturally responsive curriculum should be designed from multiple perspectives. Culture is diversified, which includes objective culture and subjective culture. As a teacher, we need to realize that children are not blank in cultural knowledge, and they also have cultural knowledge and understanding. Teachers need to observe and understand their children's cultural experience carefully, and establish appropriate contacts. When designing culture-responsive courses, the teacher should understand the children's known cultural knowledge, and put forward new cultural knowledge on this basis, and then guide the children to compare. This can support children's recognition of their own cultural identity and their understanding of other people's culture. Also, this can guide children to eliminate misunderstandings, prejudice and discrimination.

In sum, I believe that designing a culturally responsive curriculum is more and more important for American children. Because learning and understanding the differences between

racess and cultures can help us communicate with people of different cultures and understand each other's behaviors. Also, designing a great culturally responsive curriculum can influence children to eliminate prejudice, discrimination, and avoid hatred and violence. Therefore, the culturally responsive curriculum is very important for children.