

CREATING DIVERSE EXPERIENCE

DIVERSITY

- ✘ It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing our individual differences. These can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies.

DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY

- ✘ Like trees in a vast forest, humans come in a variety of size, shapes, and colours.
- ✘ We share important dimensions of humankind with all members of species.
- ✘ Biological and environmental differences separate and distinguish us as individuals and groups.
- ✘ A vast array of physical and cultural differences constitute the spectrum of human diversity.

PRIMARY DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY

- × Age
- × Race
- × Ethnicity
- × Heritage
- × Gender
- × Physical abilities/ qualities
- × Sexual/ affection orientation
- × Mental abilities



SECONDARY DIMENSION OF DIVERSITY

- × Education
- × Communication style
- × Work background
- × Work style
- × Income
- × Marital status
- × Religious beliefs
- × Geographical location



METHODS FOR CREATING DIVERSE EXPERIENCE

Teachers should attempt to make the following practices an integral part of their daily practice:

- × **Self-Exploration**

Examine personal cultural biases and assumptions. Explore personal perceptions and understanding of situations by developing an awareness of personal cultural

- × **Comprehensive integration**

Integrate culturally diverse information/perspectives into all aspects of teaching.

- × **Time and Maturation**

Allow time for a process to develop. Introduce less complex topics at first, and create time to establish trust.

- × **Accepting Environment**

Establish an environment that allows for mistakes

- × **Intervention**

Be prepared to respond to purposely-directed acts of bias.

- × **Life-long learning**

Teachers should let students know that they consider themselves learners, and that they see themselves as part of the learning process.

- × **Discovery learning**

Avoid "preaching" to students about how they should behave.

Provide opportunities for students to resolve conflicts, solve problems, work in diverse teams and think critically about information

- × **Life Experience**

Provide opportunities for students to share life experiences; choose literature that will help students develop empathy.

- × **Home-School-Community Connection**

Involve parents, other family members and other community members in the learning process. Understand that families and others in the community provide the context in which students are motivated to learn.

- × **Examine the Classroom Environment**

What is present and absent in the school classroom provides children with important information about who and what is important. Every effort should be made to create a setting that is rich in possibilities for exploring cultural diversity.

Thank you!