

CHILDREN AND OTHER CULTURES

From their earliest years, children need to understand about other cultures and learn to accept people who are different than themselves. Even toddlers can begin to appreciate playing side by side with other children who may have a different language, skin color, or food to eat. Young children are most curious and receptive to new experiences and it is essential that children see the world as diverse from an early age.

Use these ideas to help your child develop a positive, open attitude toward other cultures.

- Allow children to play with dolls and other play items that portray various races.
- Have a family of another culture in your home for a meal
- Visit a restaurant of another culture and enjoy a meal
- Encourage your child to play with a friend from another culture.
- Make friends with a bi-racial family and enjoy taking trips together.
- Visit a museum or attend a function that focuses on another culture or race
- Read books and listen to music from other cultures. Talk about differences in a casual and accepting manner.
- Shop at a food store that caters to various cultures. Prepare recipes that come from a different country or people group.
- Participate in a church service in a neighborhood of another culture.
- Become friends with a missionary family from another culture. Write letters to them; collect stamps & coins from the country where they live.
- Have open discussions in your family about prejudice that is seen either in the media or experienced by your children in real life.
- Be careful not to convey negative stereotypes in your home about other cultures.
- Display art work or use textiles from another culture
- Purchase fair trade coffee and other household items.
- Have maps and globes around your house to point out different areas of our earth.

I wonder if we fully realize how much God loves all people of the world, not just those who look and act like we do. Give your child the wonderful gift of God's global view of the world.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; ...their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." Psalm 19: 1&4 NIV

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