

How Family and Culturally Rich Is Your Classroom?

Respond to the following statements by checking Yes, No, or Somewhat.

	Yes	No	Somewhat
1. Teachers know children's and families' home backgrounds, interests and cultures and consider these when planning for children.			
2. Communications with parents are developed with their special needs in mind, e.g., low literacy level, non-English speaker.			
3. Parents are welcome contributors of ideas and help plan activities for children.			
4. Parents are given frequent opportunities to read and interact with their children or with small groups of children.			
5. Parents and children have opportunities to read to others in their native language.			
6. There is comfortable seating—"grown-up size"—for parents.			
7. Children's and parents' home languages are valued in the classroom, e.g., through labeling in various languages and including vocabulary words displayed in various languages.			
8. The various ways families celebrate holidays are respected in the classroom.			
9. Books in the classroom reflect families, their cultures and the community.			
10. Books and other literacy materials routinely are provided to families for use at home.			

How does your classroom rate?

Score 2 for each Yes, 1 for each *Somewhat* and 0 for each *No*.

- 17 – 20 Your classroom is culturally rich!
- 12 – 16 You are well on your way. What other things might you do?
- 15 and below You need to find some ways to incorporate culture in your classroom.
How can you begin?

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