

**Shoreline Council of Neighborhoods**  
**Training and Winter Potluck**  
December 1, 2010 by Lee Mozena of Zenith Diversity

**Overview**

The cultural diversity of Shoreline is rapidly increasing and integration isn't always a smooth process. This presents specific challenges to neighborhood group leaders that seek to welcome and engage families and groups whose language, cultural practices and expectations may be unfamiliar or puzzling. This informative, fun, learning event will help you a more confident community builder no matter where you live.

**OUTCOMES** of this learning event include:

1. Focus on participants' cultural background and assimilation/immigration story
2. Assessment of the benefits and challenges today's changing neighborhoods present
3. Increased understanding of cultures and customs many New Americans share
4. Actionable steps they can take towards successful community outreach

**Brainstorm of advantages and challenges of increasing diversity**

**Advantages/Positives of Shoreline's increasing diversity**

- New food, tastes
- Different perspectives about community
- New skill sets
- Music
- Values around education
- Religious diversity
- Cultural traditions
- More exposure to new languages
- Makes us more competitive [in the marketplace]

**Challenges/Negatives of of Shoreline's increasing diversity**

- (shifting) identify issues
- Communication
- Language - and more for schools to juggle
- Self imposed isolation - groups that don't mix
- Cost to City
- Shifting/new historical perspectives
- Poverty
- Legal differences/views
- Ways of doing business are different
- Lack of access to technology
- Loss of comfort
- Ignorance

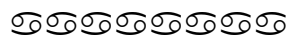
**Issues that impact the shift from individual to collective**

- Increased Diversity
- Equity
- Social networking
- Education
- Economic opportunity
- Climate

## Questions about Culture and Class

Adapted by Lee Mozena from a handout by Grayson Associates,  
as printed in *The Child Welfare Practice Digest*

1. Concept of time
2. Orientation towards others
3. Role of extended family
4. Role of community
5. Religious or spiritual beliefs
6. Family/Ethnic/Cultural communication style
7. To what extent does racism affect this group?
8. What are the gender roles in the family?
9. How strong is group identity?
10. How closely do they align with the values/norms of mainstream culture?
11. What are the standards of personal and household cleanliness?
12. Who is respected and how is it shown?
13. World view



### **Ask Yourself: If I Stepped Into Another Culture, What Would Help Me Feel WELCOME?**

Working Effectively With English Language Learners

#### RESPECT (self-awareness)

- Create a climate that invites positive interactions.
- Become aware of your own cultural assumptions.
- Pay attention to your nonverbal communication.
- Challenge yourself to become knowledgeable of other cultures, beliefs, values, spirituality, etc.

#### REMEMBER (communication)

- Be patient. Allow silence and time for processing information.
- Provide brief answers, avoiding slang, technical terms, anecdotes, and long explanations.
- Listen actively, paraphrasing and checking for understanding.
- Whenever possible, use trained interpreters. Children or other family members are not appropriate as interpreters for sensitive or personal conversations.

#### RESPOND (welcoming environment)

- Remember- learning is a two-way process!
- Invite other to share life stories and experiences.
- Seek out and use culturally relevant resources.
- Display art of literature from different cultures and signs in different languages.

*Author unknown, based on literature developed by VCT Program at Shoreline Community College*



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### TAKE AWAYS

The world need for collective thinking

Initiate (with new groups) don't wait (for others to come to you)

Look for common ground, find similar values

Look at what cultures are in Shoreline, use school to get statistics

Ask questions

Now aware of the thirst for our knowledge

Be yourself, be genuine

Know the values connected with the culture and honor them

Respect others by learning about yourself first

Look at the role of extended families to meet needs of some groups

Look for alignment (with others' cultural values and norms)