

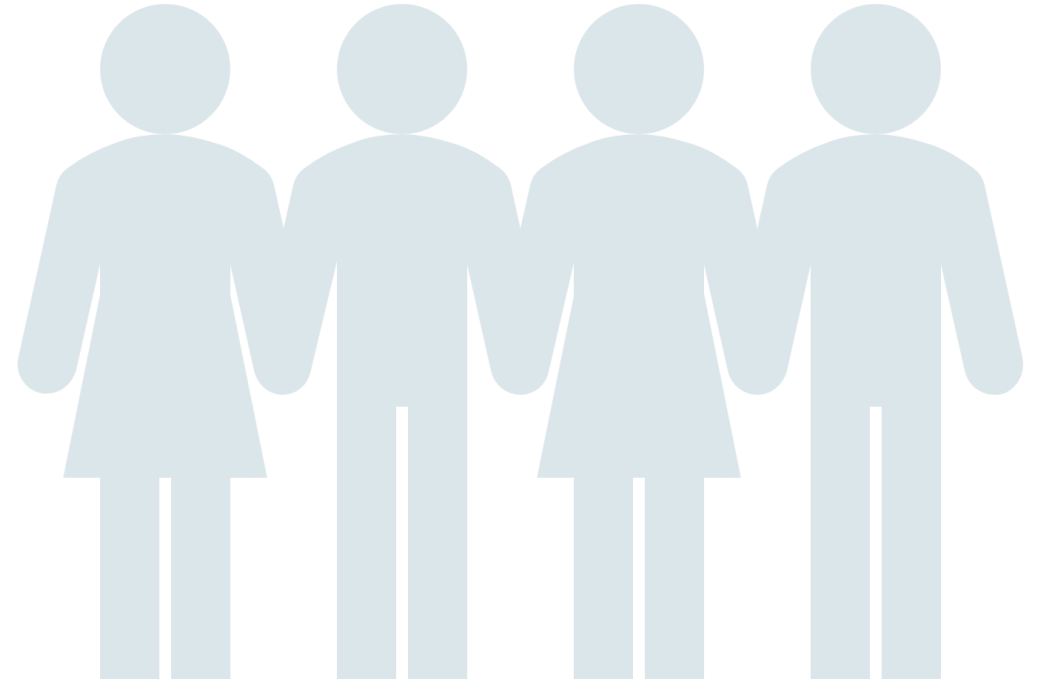


Fostering Family Engagement Through Cultural Humility

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Session Objectives:

Explore

Participants will explore research-based and promising practices for cultural responsiveness and humility .

Provide

Participants will provide examples of how providers can practice cultural responsiveness and humility with EI families.

Modify

Participants will modify early intervention strategies to include more culturally responsive practices.

Importance of Cultural Humility in EI

US population has become increasingly diverse, with more families speaking languages other than English in the home

- Unique cultural norms, beliefs, traditions, languages, and rituals

Culture is believed to be the fundamental building block of identity

- Instills a strong sense of community, beliefs, understanding and trust
- Drives activities, beliefs/values, expectations, language and routines
- Influences views on disabilities
- Can impact/differ from US developmental norms



Immigration to the United States Overview

The United States welcomed approximately 10 million immigrants between 2011-2020

49.5 million immigrants lived in the United States in 2023, which is roughly 15% of the US population

Over 1 million immigrants arrive in the US each year

In 2023 the top 3 countries immigrating to the US originated from:

1 in 8 US residents is an immigrant

1 in 8 is a native-born US citizen with at least 1 immigrant parent

61 million Hispanics/Latinos made for about 19% of the total US population

Mexico (24%)

India (6%)

China (5%)

Immigration
Population
Growth in the US
by
Country/Region
2021 to 2023

Table 1. Immigrant Population in the United States by Country and Region, January 2021 to October 2023 (in thousands)

Region	January 2021	October 2023	Numerical Increase	Percent Increase	Share of Growth Accounted for by Region
Latin America	23,628	26,497	2,869	12%	63%
Mexico	11,966	12,054	87	1%	2%
Caribbean	4,485	5,395	910	20%	20%
Central America	3,831	4,780	949	25%	21%
South America	3,346	4,269	922	28%	20%
Sub-Saharan Africa	2,285	2,767	482	21%	11%
Indian Subcontinent	3,972	4,308	335	8%	7%
Europe	4,355	4,484	129	3%	3%
East Asia	7,801	8,236	436	6%	10%
Canada	682	743	61	9%	1%
Middle East	1,921	2,180	259	14%	6%
Oceania/Elsewhere	367	321	(46)	-13%	-1%
Total	45,010	49,535	4,525	10%	100%

Source: January 2021 and October 2023 public-use files of the Current Population Survey. Regions defined in end note 9.

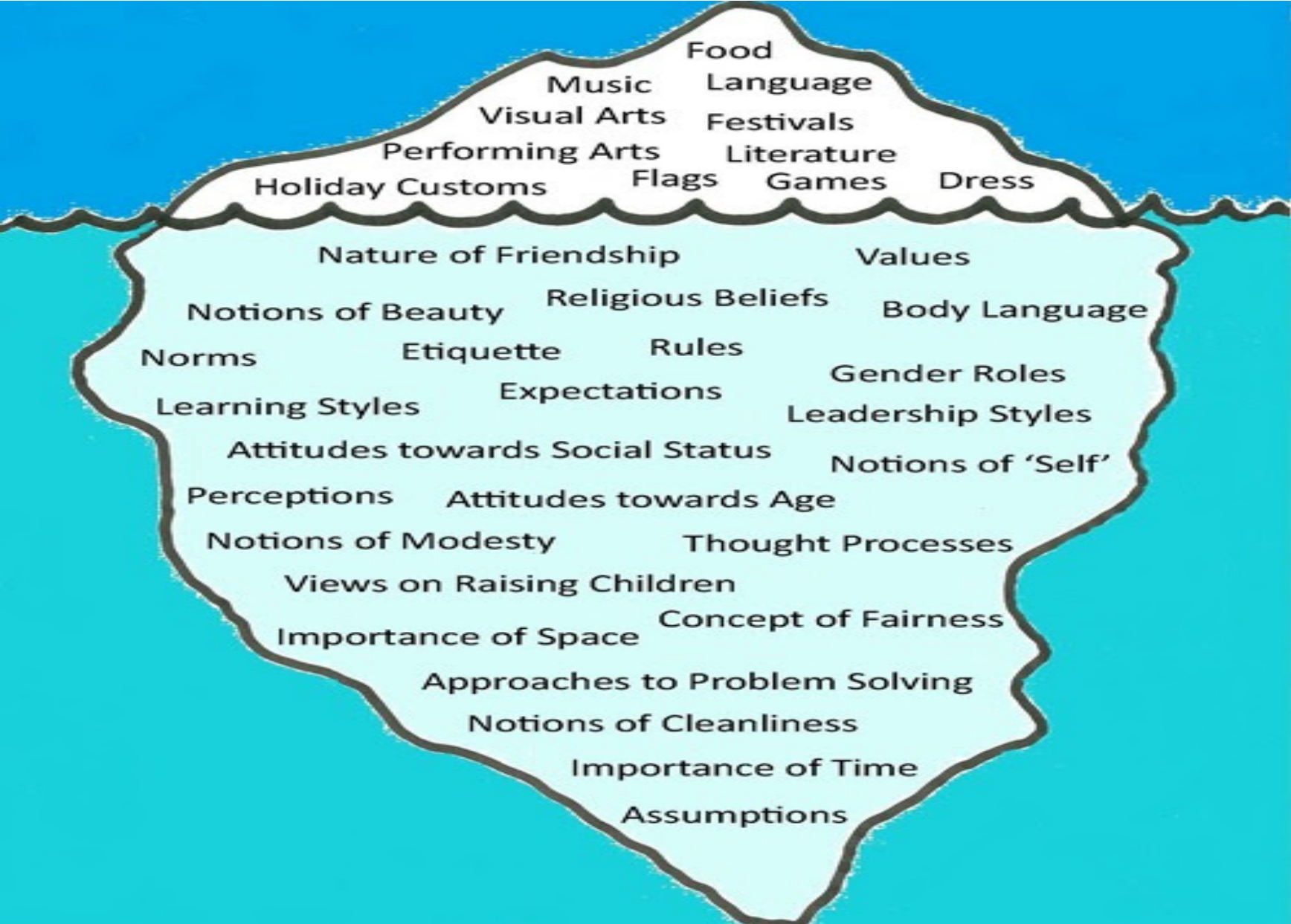
(Center for Immigration Studies, October 2023)

What is Culture?

Culture drives the activities, beliefs, expectations, and routines of families with children who have hearing differences.

Common cultural beliefs on hearing differences and disability vary widely both across cultures and within cultures (sub-populations by religions, socio-economics, education etc.)

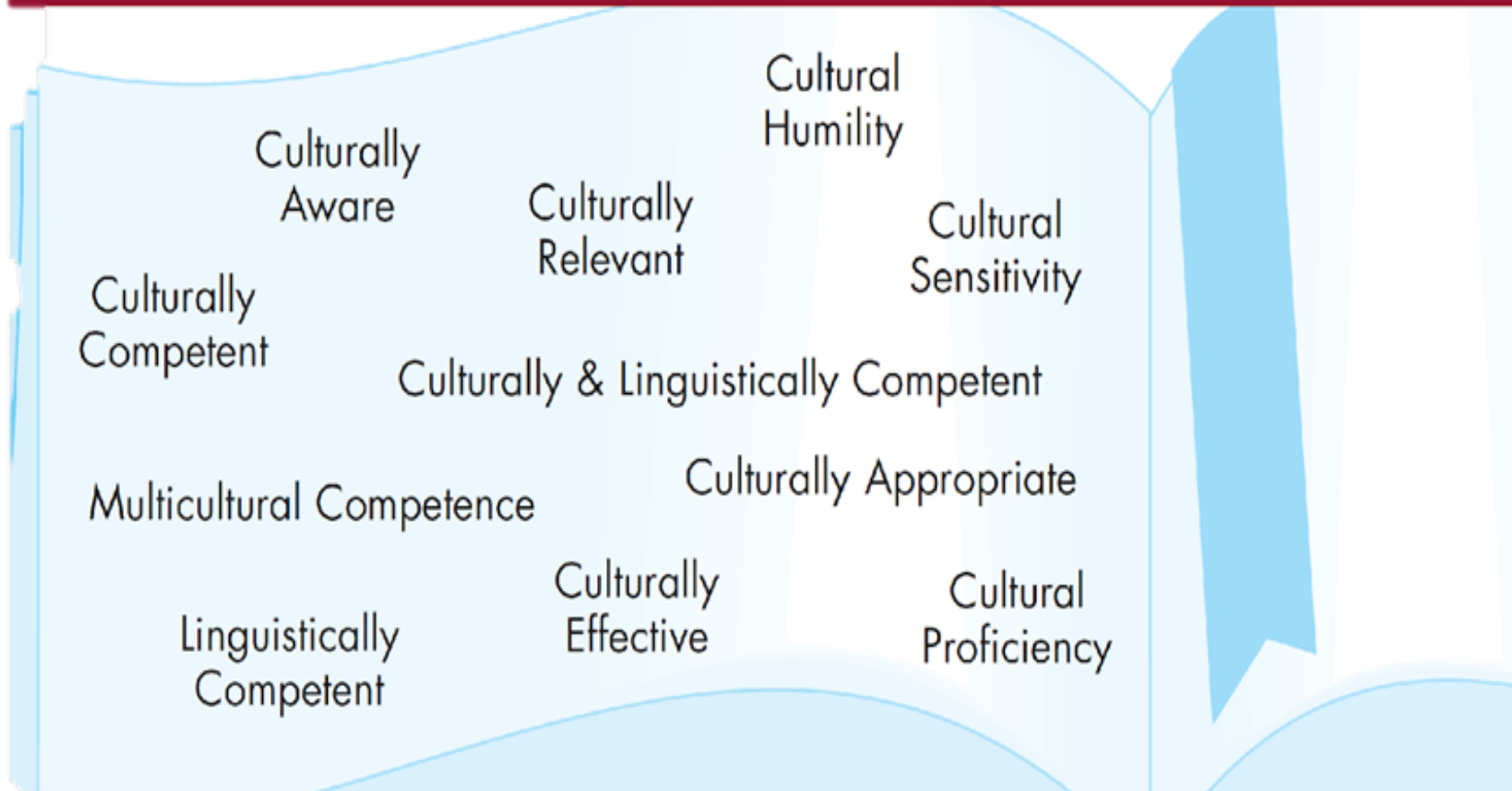
Culture is often compared to an iceberg.



The external, or conscious, part of culture is what we can see--the tip of the iceberg--and includes behaviors and observable practices.

The internal, unobservable, part of culture is below the surface and includes beliefs, values and concepts that underlie behavior.

FIGURE 3: Are We on the Same Page?





When EI professionals engage in self-reflection and self-examination of their own culture (**Cultural humility**) they are then able to enter into a relationship with the family with the intention of honoring their beliefs, customs and values (**Cultural responsiveness**).

Cultural Humility

Cultural humility is a lifelong process of self-reflection and self-critique whereby the individual not only learns about another's culture, but one starts with an examination of her/his own beliefs and cultural identities (Tervalon & Murray-Garcia, 1998)

In practicing cultural humility, rather than learning to identify and respond to a set of culturally specific traits, the culturally competent provider develops and practices self awareness and reflection.



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Culturally Responsive Practices and Family Engagement in FCEI

- What is your comfort level in working with families of other cultures?
- Which cultures have you worked with?
- What challenges have you faced with these families/cultures?



What is Family Engagement?



- Genuine, trusting, and respectful partnerships with families which fosters family investment and effective outcomes
 - Understand family perspective, culture, beliefs, and values
 - View as the experts on their child
 - Include the whole family so the priorities, concerns and needs of the child are placed in the context of the family and their routines
 - Allow for open, objective, and unbiased information sharing and partnership/collaboration between providers and family members
 - Helps educate, empower and support family members on their journeys so they can advocate and make informed decisions
 - Increases level of involvement and follow through
- Leads to better outcomes for children and their families

Resource 25 Questions EI Professionals should ask.

- Group 1-Family Composition
 - Group 2- Family Culture, Ethnicity and Language
 - Group 3-Family Customs and Preferences
 - Group 4- Child-Rearing Practices
 - Group 5- Education, Health Care and help seeking
-
- 25 Questions Early Childhood Professionals Should Ask Families
[Click Link here](#)

How to optimize your work with interpreters and cultural brokers

When a family speaks a language other than English, parents' abilities to interact with the interventionist may be noticeably limited by language barriers as well as restricted in more obscure ways by cultural differences" (Wieber & Quiñonez-Sumner, 2016, p. 78).

It is not simply using the same language but understanding the cultural differences in views of disability, child-rearing practices, playtime behaviors, and cultural resources that may impede the relationship (Bowen, 2016; Wieber & Quiñonez-Sumner, 2016).

Professionals who are not culturally attuned may overlook language learning opportunities in and outside the home.

In order to optimize parent engagement and child outcomes, intervention must be provided within the framework of the family's specific culture.

This includes using culturally appropriate songs, games, books, and activities within the family's daily routines and understanding and respecting the family's beliefs, values, and traditions (Wieber & Quiñonez-Sumner, 2016).

The best approach to meet the needs of diverse families is to employ CLD providers (Bowen, 2016; Yoshinaga-Itano, 2014).

However, in the absence of qualified professionals, it is important to have skilled oral language interpreters and cultural brokers involved in the early intervention process (Bowen, 2016; Wieber & Quiñonez-Sumner, 2016).

A cultural broker is defined as a 'go-between' or one who advocates on behalf of another individual to reduce conflict or produce change (Georgis, Gokiart, Ford & Ali, 2014; Jezewski & Sotnik, 2001).

Culture appropriateness



El practices vs. child rearing beliefs, experiences, and perceptions

- Literacy and book sharing
 - Play
 - Child behavior
 - Child independence
 - Communication
 - Disability
 - Feeding
 - Dressing
- ➔ Daily routines



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Provide examples for how culture impacts:

- ___ Dressing
- ___ Discipline
- ___ Toileting
- ___ Feeding
- ___ Self-help skills
- ___ Expectations for the future
- ___ Communication



Developmental Milestones and Culture

Sequence
seems to be
the same

Timing and
expectations
may differ.

Competence
may vary

Common Cultural Beliefs on Hearing Differences

Punishment/Curse from God

Spiritual causes- Gods, daemons, or spirits

Gift from God

Stigma/embarrassment

Guilt

Work with cultural/faith healers, medicine man

Cleanse the home

Hearing aids make the hearing worse

Wrong doing from their ancestors

Unavoidable but unfortunante event

Attitudes about a disability vary depending on the perceived cause of the disability

- Shelter and protect child and family
- Ostracizing of child, mother, and/or family
- Personal embarrassment to the parents and/or extended family
- Treated as though the individual has a contractable illness/disease
- Child is incapable of learning (much)
- Attitudes about the disability impact the intervention and treatment



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Understand/honor/respect the culture, language, traditions, and child rearing practices

Value and celebrate child's different abilities

Willing to explore strengths, needs, desires of families you work with and their differences

Understand how to communicate respectfully within their culture and know what's acceptable

Locate an interpreter that speaks the family's dialect

Learn about family's views on hearing differences, disabilities, hearing tech

Implement culturally relevant routines –
POWERFUL!

Incorporate songs/music, games and books they use

Provide appropriate materials/resources in their native language when possible

Connect families from similar cultures/background to one another

Spirituality/religion/holidays

Trauma Informed Care

Key cultural elements for a successful home visit.



Monday Morning Take Aways

Which components of family engagement are included in your professional practice? Which are missing or could be enhanced?

Which components of cultural competence and cultural humility are included in your professional practice? Which are missing or could be enhanced?

What barriers seem to be most persistent for diverse families to be engaged in the early intervention experience?

What resources do you need to support the diverse families on your caseload?

Thank you!

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