

Principles of Culturally Responsive Teaching

Gary Howard, 7 Principles of Culturally Responsive Teaching,

[You Tube](#) and [Handout](#)

Learn more from Rosemarie Allen through the [Culturally Responsive Practices to Reduce Implicit Bias, Disproportionality, Suspension & Expulsion eModule](#) from the Pyramid Consortium.

Principle 1: Students are honored in their cultural connection. “Kids get that we get them.”

The children are represented in:

- Content
- Stories
- People
- Examples
- Inclusion

Kids feel honored, recognized, and seen.

Principle 2: Teachers are personally culturally inviting. “Kids get that we like them”

- Kids understand that we enjoy them and enjoy being with them.
- There are personal connections to each student.
- Teachers develop personal, meaningful and positive relationships with each child.

Principle 3: Classroom is physically and culturally inviting. “School looks like me.”

- Children see themselves in the classroom.
- Pictures, books, and games reflect the culture of the children.
- The classroom uses attractive displays for learning.

Principle 4: Children's development and efforts are reinforced. "Catch kids being good."

- Teachers see children from a strength-based lens.
- Teachers look for and acknowledge the positive behaviors of children.
- Children are perceived as smart and capable learners.

Principle 5: Adjust instructional strategies to meet the needs of unique learning and cultural styles of the children. “Singing in harmony with the kids’ song”

- Accommodating who the kids are

Principle 6: Classroom management is caring and consistent. “Respect begins with the teacher.”

- Children are intentionally taught culturally appropriate prosocial skills.
- Children are taught classroom expectations.
- Rules are clear, implemented consistently, and reinforced regularly.
- Guidance is instructive, not punitive.

Principle 7: Instruction is individual as well as collective. “Student-Centered Learning”

- Cooperation skills are promoted.
- Individual development is supported.
- Peer-to-peer teaching and learning takes place.