

European best practices to support children with high potential and to access training for gifted children with disabilities – Gifted (for) you 2014 - I - RO01 - KA201-002957



Intercultural Communication Theoretical Aspects & Training For Gifted

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Foreign To Familiar - A Guide to Understanding for Gifted

Brief description:

Working with different cultures requires sensitivity to cultural differences. It is important to understand cultural differences of gifted in order to overcome the cultural shock and stress, that will help us to cross the cultural gap.

Gifted children should accept and be sensitive to the differences between the representatives of hot-climate and cold-climate cultures.

HOT-CLIMATE CULTURES

- Are relationship based.
- Communication must create a "feel-good" atmosphere.
- Though the individuals may be otherwise, the society is feeling oriented.
- Efficiency and time do not make priority over the person.
- It is inappropriate to "talk business" upon first arriving at a business meeting or making business phone call.

COLD-CLIMATE CULTURES

- Are task oriented.
- Communication must provide accurate information.
- Though individuals may be otherwise, the society is logic oriented.
- Efficiency and time are high priorities, and taking them seriously is a statement of respect for the other person.

Hot- versus cold-climate cultures

- ▶ There are basic oppositions characterizing the two types of culture:
 - RELATIONSHIP VERSUS TASK ORIENTATION
 - DIRECT VERSUS INDIRECT COMMUNICATION
 - INDIVIDUALISM VERSUS GROUP IDENTITY
 - INCLUSION VERSUS PRIVACY
 - DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF HOSPITALITY
 - HIGH-CONTEXT VERSUS LOW-CONTEXT
 - DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF TIME AND PLANNING

DIRECT VERSUS INDIRECT COMMUNICATION

DIRECT COMMUNICATION (COLD-CLIMATE)

- Short, direct questions show respect for the person's time, as well as professionalism.
- A 'yes' is a 'yes', and a 'no' is a 'no'. There are no hidden meanings.
- An honest, direct answer is information only. It does not reflect on how the person feels about you.
- You can say what you think (nicely), and it will usually not be taken personally.

DIRECT VERSUS INDIRECT COMMUNICATION

INDIRECT COMMUNICATION (HOT-CLIMATE)

- It's all about being friendly.
- Every question must be phrased in such a way as to not offend by its directness.
- Use a third party for accurate information if you sense that a direct question will be too harsh, or not get the results you are seeking.
- A 'yes' may not be an answer to your question. It may be the first step in beginning a friendly interchange. Or verbal compliance may be required by the culture. Therefore, void yes-or-no questions.
- Avoid embarrassing people.

INDIVIDUALISM VERSUS GROUP ORIENTATION

INDIVIDUALISTIC CULTURE (COLD-CLIMATE)

- I am a self-standing person, with my own identity.
- Every individual should have an opinion and can speak for him- or herself.
- Taking initiative within a group is good and expected.
- One must know how to make one's own decisions.
- My behavior reflects on me, not on the group.



INDIVIDUALISM VERSUS GROUP ORIENTATION

GROUP-ORIENTED CULTURE (HOT-CLIMATE)

- I belong, therefore I am.
- My identity is tied to the group (family, tribe, etc.).
- The group protects and provides for me.
- Taking initiative within a group can be greatly determined by my role.

INDIVIDUALISM VERSUS GROUP ORIENTATION

GROUP-ORIENTED CULTURE (HOT-CLIMATE)

- I do not expect to have to stand alone.
- My behavior reflects on the whole group.
- The Southern United States would be a hot- climate culture that does not necessarily fit the group orientation.
- Team members expect direction from the leader.

INCLUSION VERSUS PRIVACY

HOT-CLIMATE (INCLUSION) CULTURES

- Are group-oriented culture.
- Individuals know they are automatically included in conversation, meals, and the other activities of the group.
- Possessions are to be used freely by all: food, tools, etc.
- It is not desirable to be left to oneself.
- It is rude to hold a private conversation or make plans that exclude the other present.

INCLUSION VERSUS PRIVACY

COLD-CLIMATE (PRIVACY) CULTURES

- People enjoy having time and space to themselves.
- People are expected to ask permission to borrow something or to interrupt a conversation.
- Each person is considered to be the steward of his or her possessions and has the responsibility to maintain and protect them.
- In a community setting, it might be common to label one's food, tools, etc. to set them apart from the group's common possessions
- It is acceptable to hold private conversations or make exclusive plans with a few people, not including everyone.

DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF HOSPITALITY

HOT-CLIMATE CULTURES

- Hospitality is spontaneous, often without an advance invitation.
- It is the context for relationship (even a business relationship).
- Hospitality usually takes place in the home.
- The host fully takes care of the needs of the guest. The guest pays for nothing.
- A gift is usually expected.
- Food and drink are involved.
- Travelers are taken in and provided for.

DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF HOSPITALITY

COLD-CLIMATE CULTURES

- Hospitality is taken very seriously and is planned for.
- It is usually not as spontaneous. The host usually needs advance notice of a visit.
- Travellers are expected to make their own arrangements other than what is specifically communicated to the host ahead of time.
- Guests need to expect to pay for their transportation and restaurants if visiting in the United States. If the host plans to pay, he usually will say so.
- Hospitality is a special occasion, taking the full attention of the host.

HIGH-CONTEXT VERSUS LOW-CONTEXT

HIGH-CONTEXT SOCIETIES (EVERYTHING MATTERS)

- Who you are related to matters.
- Who you know matters.
- It is better to overdress than to underdress
- Watch to see how others respond in a situation in order to apply appropriate behavior.
- Remember to honor the people you are dealing with; too casual is insulting.
- Use manners.
- Respect the rules.
- Give attention to appropriate greetings.

HIGH-CONTEXT VERSUS LOW-CONTEXT

LOW-CONTEXT SOCIETIES (NOTHING MATTERS; ANYTHING GOES - WITHIN REASON)

- Who you know matters, but not as much. What you know is more important.
- Do not be offended by casual atmosphere.
- Lack of protocol does not mean rejecting, nor is dishonoring.
- They do not know what your rules are, so leave your rules at home.
- Address people by their given names unless others use titles.

DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF TIME AND PLANNING

HOT-CLIMATE CULTURES

- Are not oriented toward the clock as cold- climate cultures.
- Are event oriented.
- Are spontaneous and flexible in their approach to life.
- Respond to what life brings.
- Consider that saving time is not as important as experiencing the moment.
- Recognize that structure is required in some areas of life (the military, for example).
- Have informal visiting as part of the event.

DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF TIME AND PLANNING Writing

COLD-CLIMATE CULTURES

- Are time oriented.
- Are structured in their approach to life.
- Enjoy using time efficiently.
- Try to plan their day, and saving time is value.
- Expect the event (dinner, the arrival of a guest, or a meeting to begin at the time announced. Visiting or informally chatting happens before or after the event).

PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

- Look for a "culture interpreter", a person who can explain the culture to you.
- Before arriving at your host culture, read as much as possible on the history of the people and how they relate to one another.
- Seek out book sources or the Internet.
- Before leaving home, try to find people from the country who can talk to you about their home.
- Try to find out the values of the society and religion.

PRACTICAL NEXT STEPS

- Be aware of cultural shock (that negative impact the unfamiliar world makes on you) and cultural stress which lasts longer.
- Learn phrases in the local language.
- Go listening, observing "strange habits".
- Returning home, you have to reenter your own culture. Learn to accept all changes in it.

CONCLUSIONS

- Culture is opened, dynamic and changeable phenomenon, so as communication.
- With a little understanding much conflict can be avoided between people of diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Learn, respect and enjoy the differences. Soon, what seems foreign will become familiar.
- And we'll find we have much in common.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!