

ROOT #4

Being Aware of Cultural Positioning

What It Is

- ▶ View linguistic and cultural responsiveness (LCR) as a way of being and working, not an add-on.
- ▶ Hold a deep personal commitment to social justice.
- ▶ Value diversity in learning and learners.
- ▶ Demonstrate a willingness to question own and others' assumptions.
- ▶ Have a desire to create strong, trusting, and respectful relationships.
- ▶ Be aware of the privileged nature of some knowledge and the negative effects of this.

Why It Matters

- ▶ Identity, culture, and language play a central role in learning at all levels.
- ▶ Cultural positioning influences what we notice, ignore, and act on.
- ▶ Commitment to LCR action is critical to improving educational outcomes for diverse learners.
- ▶ LCR is often espoused but not enacted.
- ▶ Learners are empowered or disempowered as a result of interactions in school.
- ▶ Knowledge building about LCR practice is critical for change.

How I Do It

- ▶ Create commitment to diverse students' success.
- ▶ Value family and community knowledge so that success includes, not excludes, students' culture, language, and identities.

- ▶ Co-construct commitment to action with educators, families, and community knowledge holders.
- ▶ Take a strengths-based approach to engaging others in taking action.
- ▶ Develop relationships of respect.
- ▶ Make language and culture central to learning and teaching programmed.

Key Challenges for Me

- ▶ Recognizing potential discomfort in cultural biases and confronting assumptions
- ▶ Embedding languages and culture across school practices and within teaching and learning programs
- ▶ Existing priorities and creating space for community knowledge within curriculum planning and programs
- ▶ Developing equitable reciprocal relationships for learning

What I Should Notice

- ▶ What are my narratives, stories, or metaphors?
- ▶ What are my own (sometimes "invisible") cultural biases?
- ▶ What are the effects of my power?
- ▶ What do I notice, and what untapped potential might I be ignoring?