

DEVELOPING INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE IN MY CLASSROOM

THE QUESTIONS I NEED TO ASK MYSELF

Developing intercultural competence involves systematically observing and critically reflecting on our own, our students' (and their parents') behaviours.



ATTITUDES

Respect (valuing other cultures); Openness (withholding judgment); Curiosity & discovery (tolerating ambiguity)

Am I curious, open and eager to learn from my students?
How do I react when I don't understand what they're doing or saying?



KNOWLEDGE

Cultural self-awareness, deep cultural knowledge, sociolinguistic awareness



Am I aware of my own cultural behaviour and why I think and act the way I do? Am I aware of how my students wish to be treated?
Which rules, customs and values influence my own and my students' thinking, actions and communication?



SKILLS

To listen, observe and evaluate; To analyze, interpret and relate

How much do I really listen to my students?
Do I respond in a culturally appropriate manner? How can I change my mindset to describe behaviours before evaluating them?



Honest and open communication is key to teaching diverse students who need and deserve to be welcomed, supported and heard.