

Content Resources

And still we speak . . . Stories of communities sustaining and reclaiming language and culture

Olsen, L., Bhattacharya, M., Jaramillo, A., Pulido-Tobiassen, D., & Solorio, J. (2001). Oakland, CA: California Tomorrow. Cost: \$32.00

It is rare that a book comes along and sheds light on our multilingual and multicultural nation. This one identifies 16 schools and community programs around the US that are working to connect or reconnect children and families to languages and cultural heritages. With rich descriptions of the schools' histories, achievements and teaching methods, *And still we speak* offers the hope that the traditions of our nation's citizens will not be lost. For faculty members, students and community partners, the vignettes can fuel discussion and planning for any community seeking to honor and reflect the diversity of its citizens.

Screening and assessment of young English-language learners

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) recently adopted recommendations on appropriate screening and assessment of young children whose home language is not English. Recommendations and indicators of effective practice are presented in regard to: appropriate uses of screening and assessment; culturally and linguistically appropriate assessment; characteristics of assessments used to improve instruction; use of standardized formal assessments; characteristics of those conducting assessments; the role of family; and needs in the field. These recommendations are available to download at http://www.naeyc.org/about/positions/pdf/ELL_Supplement.pdf

NOTE: A shorter version of this document (about half the length) and a 2-page summary are also being developed by NAEYC. All three resources will soon be available in Spanish at the NAEYC web site.

The diversity kit: An introductory resource for social change in education

Crochunis, T., Erdey, S., & Swedlow, J. (2005). Providence, RI: LAB at Brown University. Download at http://www.alliance.brown.edu/pubs/diversity_kit/index.shtml

In what settings and conditions do you learn best? Are you aware of cultural influences on your learning? Who encouraged you to develop your talents and abilities? What stereotypes do you have about the talents and abilities of others? These questions and many more are addressed in *The Diversity Kit*, a rich, FREE resource for faculty members and preservice teachers who want to acknowledge and affirm the diversity in their classrooms. The *Diversity Kit* features 3 sections – human development, culture and language. The content of each section is illustrated and extended through activities and vignettes, guiding questions, and references for further exploration. Drawing on Vygotsky's sociocultural theory, the authors explore cultural identity and its dynamic relationship with the values, beliefs and practices of individuals and groups. Attention is given to the wide variations of individual identities within any given group. Exploring the relationships of culture and education, the authors assert that schooling is based on narrow norms of the dominant culture and inadequate assumptions about the capabilities of diverse cultures. Special attention is given throughout the document to issues of second language acquisition, with emphasis on new research supporting that the development of the first language enhances the development of the second language.

A place at the table: Struggles for equality in America

Southern Poverty Law Center/ Teaching Tolerance . (2000). Montgomery, AL: Author. Cost: \$30.00.

To help student audiences recognize and identify with ongoing efforts to win equality, this beautiful documentary film features teenagers of varying backgrounds – recent immigrants, third- and fourth-generation Americans, individuals whose families have been on this continent for thousands of years and those whose ancestors came here in chains - who tell, with refreshing candor, how their families and they personally have struggled for and found "a place at the table." Accompanying the film is a 144-page publication with historical documents, first-person reflections and fascinating stories of people who overcame the odds to win against discrimination and injustice. Finally, a teacher's guide describes ways to use the video and text. It includes discussion starters, writing assignments and project ideas geared to a wide range of learning styles and media. This resource package, recommended for grades 8 and above, shows how courageous individuals have successfully fought against intolerance and discrimination throughout American history.

NOTE: One free copy of this kit will be provided to any school, university department, community or religious organization upon written request. The request, on letterhead, must come from the principal, department chair, director or leader of the requesting program. Write to Southern Poverty Law Center/Teaching Tolerance, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104

That's a family!

Chasnoff, D. & Cohen, H.S. (2000). San Francisco, CA: Women's Educational Media. Cost: \$75.00 for individuals, schools, community groups and public libraries

That's a Family is a highly entertaining half-hour documentary designed to help children see and understand the many forms that family takes. In each segment of the video, children describe their unique family experiences and configurations. Step parents, adoptive parents, foster families, guardians, gay and lesbian parents and multiracial families are some of the concepts explored. *That's a Family!* comes with an extensive discussion and teaching guide, which includes lesson plans to use with the video, suggestions for facilitating classroom discussion at different grade levels, and additional resources for teachers, families and children. It's not a cheap treat but it's a positive resource for addressing some of the ways in which families differ.

Practicum/Field Experience Resources

Partnership Luncheon at NC A&T

The Child Development, Early Education and Family Studies Program at North Carolina A&T University recently hosted colleagues from student practicum and field experience sites to join them at a catered luncheon. The purpose of the event was threefold: 1) to share information about the purpose of field-based experiences; 2) to appreciate those community partners for their help with student preparation; and 3) to help build a community of practice among faculty and community colleagues. The community representatives participated in a focus group to provide feedback on what the A&T program is doing well and what they could be doing better. This was a great way to honor the important role of practicum sites and to get good constructive feedback on the program. For a copy of the luncheon program or the focus group questions, email Valerie Jarvis McMillan (vmcmilla@ncat.edu).

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact Camille Catlett at (919) 966-6635 or catlett@mail.fpg.unc.edu