

Assignment Takeaway: Assessing Cultural Competence

Gunnar Cain

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Through reading the Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (Bennett, 1993), I most identify with Adaptation to Difference. I relate with the area because I try to make a conscious effort to understand cultural differences when interacting with others, as well as show respect to one's culture during said interactions. While I do not fully submerge myself in another's culture, I take time to learn and understand the differences. For example, Hispanic culture takes a community-based approach to health needs (i.e., family and community elders), and it is my job to communicate health concerns about children in a preschool program to their parents. While discussing health needs, I am mindful to approach parents with respect to the views of their community while still encouraging them to seek more traditional health care for their children.

I feel that this course will help me learn new concepts to become more culturally aware. I hope to gain better practices in developing cultural awareness, as well as gaining more knowledge about different cultures and how to account for the differences between them and my own when approaching others. Because my professional role brings me in contact with others from different cultures, this course will allow me to be a better communicator with the parents and children I serve.

References:

Bennett, M. J. (1993): Towards Ethnorelativism: A Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity. Aus: Paige, RM, 21-71.