

HANDOUT: STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMBATTING PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

Starter ideas:

- Share stories and cultural traditions and organize celebrations that reflect the diversity of the classroom.
- Create a safe and welcoming space for all learners.
- Emphasize multiple perspectives and “decentering” (through everyday events, historical phenomena, storytelling, artistic products).
- Use both dominant and non-dominant languages/text within the classroom.
- Use role plays and simulations (demonstrating different norms, beliefs and values).
- Assign ethnographic tasks and field trips to learn about people coming from different ethnic, religious or socio-economic groups.
- Invite guest speakers to tell their stories of identity and culture.
- Use film, texts and photographs to present different world views and perspectives.

Outline two or three strategies that you would like to use in your own classroom.

STRATEGY EXAMPLE

What is my general strategy?

Children’s literature

What are more specifics for my strategy?

Use of intercultural and anti-racist/discriminatory children’s literature at the upper primary school level. Some of these will be stories told through the voice of children who are the same age as the pupils, and will come collectively from different ethnic, cultural, religious, socio-economic, gender – as well as other forms of diversity.

What are some initial examples I can identify?

Review children’s publishers for books on tolerance and non-discrimination, diversity, multiculturalism.

What might be barriers and how might these be handled?

Funding to purchase the children’s books; need to check with my headmaster on the school budget.

What do I need to think or learn more about?

I need to think about what kind of diversity I want to capture and how much can be covered at my grade level. Do I want to use make-believe cultures I want to be sure that the literature does not present any groups in a stereotypical or negative manner. I need to think about how to help the pupils reflect critically on diversity and fair treatment.



STRATEGY 1

What is my general strategy?

What are more specifics for my strategy?

What are some initial examples I can identify?

What might be barriers and how might these be handled?

STRATEGY 2

What is my general strategy?

What are more specifics for my strategy?

What are some initial examples I can identify?

What might be barriers and how might these be handled?

What do I need to think or learn more about?

What do I need to think or learn more about?



STRATEGY 3

What is my general strategy?

What are more specifics for my strategy?

What are some initial examples I can identify?

What might be barriers and how might these be handled?

What do I need to think or learn more about?

