

# Culturally Responsive Classroom Practices Checklist

- Are the images and videos used in your classroom inclusive of the students you serve?
- During DT sessions, are the pictures you use representative of your students?
- During PRT sessions, are toys typical of what students encounter in the context of their home and culture? Are toys gendered or inclusive of all?
- During snack and lunch routines, are you offering food and utensil choices that are consistent with students' cultural cuisine and mealtime practices?
- During circle time, are the books representative of your students and various cultures? Do they contain a variety of characters, points of view, ethnic backgrounds, and cultural identities and expressions?
- Does the music in your classroom reflect a variety of genres and include songs in students' first languages?
- What vocabulary do you use to refer to the adults in your students' lives? The default terms are often "mother," "father," and "parents," but many children live with other adults who provide daily care. "Caregiver" may be a more appropriate term in some cases—learn more about your students' home lives to better understand their family dynamic.
- Is your team utilizing resources for additional development in culturally responsive teaching practices? Are you familiar with and confident in applying culturally responsive teaching competencies in your classroom? Use this [guide](#) as a resource for examples.

## Culturally Responsive Teaching Competencies

Jenny Muñiz, policy analyst with the Education Policy program at New America, researches and reports on policies and practices that impact English learners, teacher diversity, and culturally responsive education. She outlines 8 competencies for culturally responsive teaching:

1. Recognize and redress bias in the system
2. Draw on students' culture to shape curriculum and instruction
3. Bring real-world issues into the classroom
4. Model high expectations for all students
5. Promote respect for student differences
6. Collaborate with families and the local community
7. Communicate in linguistically and culturally responsive ways
8. Reflect on one's cultural lens