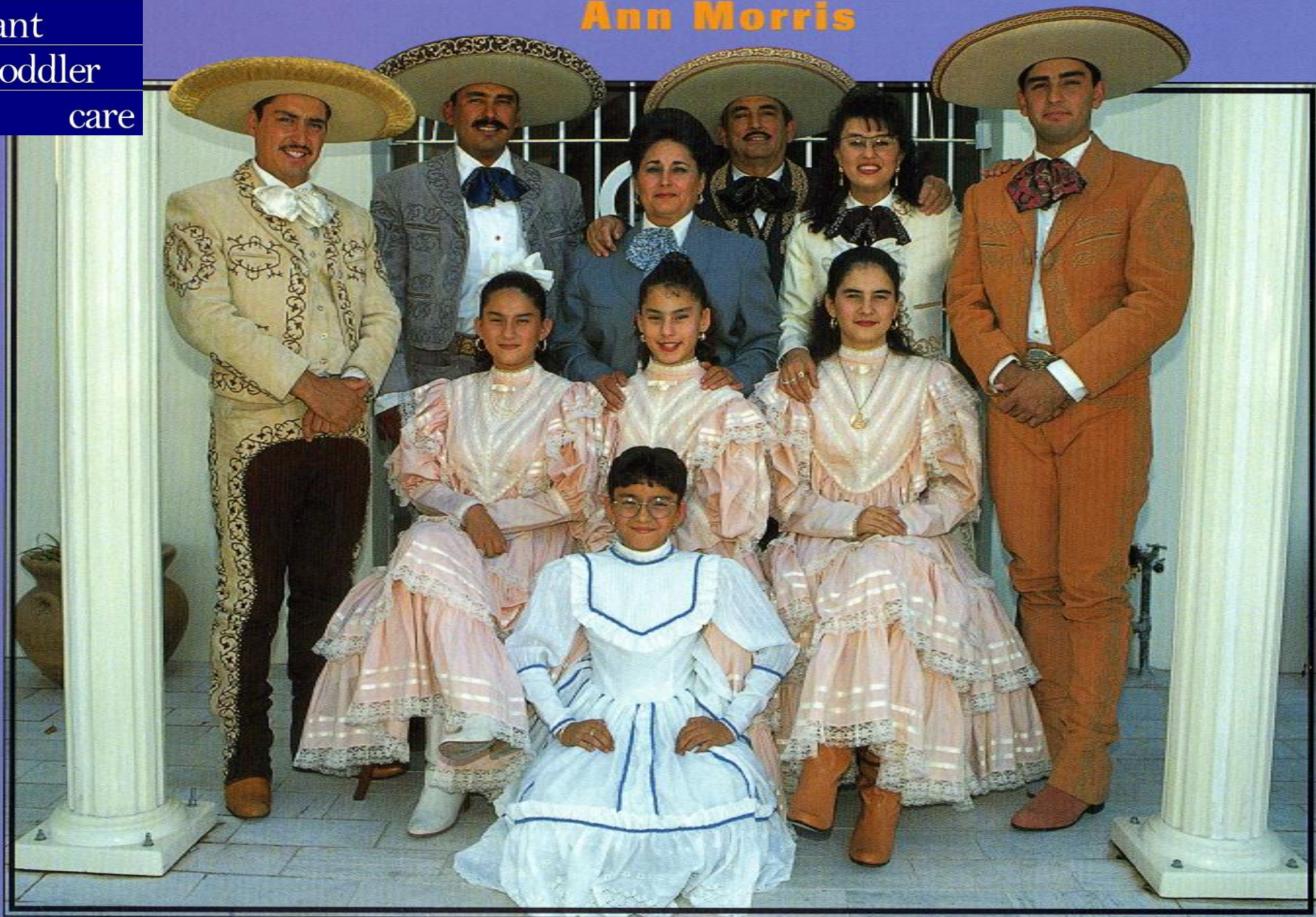


# FAMILIES

Ann Morris





# **Responding to Families in Culturally Responsive Ways**

1. Defining Culture and Cultural Sensitivity
2. Guidelines for Cultural Sensitivity - Attitude and Skills
3. Building Culturally Sensitive Partnerships with Parents
4. Putting Cultural Sensitivity into Practice  
Small group activity

“CULTURE is more than a collection of artifacts and holidays. In it’s broadest sense, it is a set of values, attitudes, beliefs, and rules for behavior by which we organize and give meaning to the world.”

Carol Brunson Day

# What does this definition tell us about culture?

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- ☐ Everyone has culture
- ☐ Culture is learned
- ☐ Culture is in everything we do
- ☐ Culture is set of rules for behavior
- ☐ Our own culture is often invisible to us



# **Culture can be described in two ways:**

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- ☐ Surface culture
- ☐ Deep culture

# Surface Culture

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Describes the elements of culture that are available to everyone. This would include obvious aspects of culture like food and holidays.

- Food
- Holidays
- Arts
- Folklore
- History
- Personalities



# Deep Culture

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Elements of deep culture deal with the feelings and attitudes that we learn by being a member of that group. It involves the thoughts, beliefs, personal values, and interpersonal relationships as expressed in actions and words, in the day-by-day details of everyday life.

- Ceremony
- Courtship and Marriage
- Esthetics
- Ethics and Values
- Health and Medicine
- Folk Myths
- Gestures/Kinesics
- Grooming and Presence
- Ownership
- Religion
- Rewards and Privileges
- Rights and Duties

# Reflection

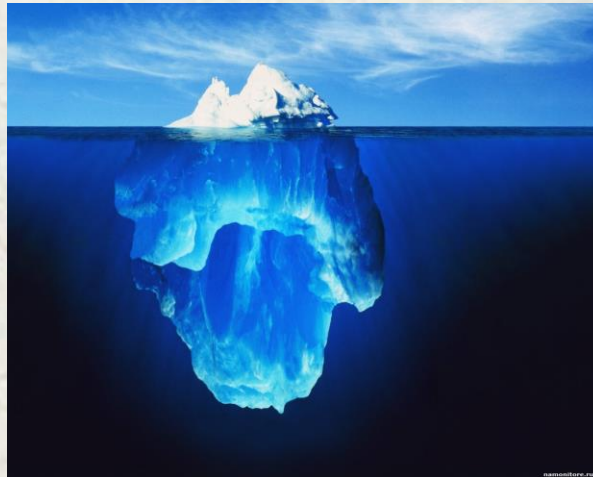
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Think about one aspect of your own personal culture that is an example of:

- Surface culture
- Deep culture



# Image 1: Iceberg



# Five Blind Men and the Elephant

## A metaphor for Culture





“We do not see  
things as they are.  
We see them as  
we are.”

The Talmud

# **Cultural Sensitivity...**

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is an awareness of our own and other's cultural contexts. It is an ongoing willingness to see the world from many different and equally valid perspectives.



# Cultural sensitivity requires

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- ☐ awareness
- ☐ commitment
- ☐ dialogue and negotiation

# **Guidelines for Becoming Culturally Sensitive**

6. Uncover Your Cultural Beliefs
7. Be Open to the Perspective of Others
8. Seek Out Cultural and Family Information
9. Clarify Values
10. Negotiate Cultural Conflicts



# Skills Needed To Become Culturally Sensitive

## 6. Uncover Your Cultural Beliefs

Skill: Be able to name our experiences

## 7. Be Open to the Perspective of Others

Skill: Listening and being willing to learn from others

## 8. Seek Out Cultural and Family Information

Skill: Effectively gathering information

## 9. Clarify Values

Skill: Communicating and creating dialogue

## 10. Negotiate Cultural Values

Skill: Collaboration and negotiation

# Partnerships with Parents





# Defining Values

1. As a parent or center caregiver, write down the three most important values that you feel are essential in caring for infants.
2. Once you have defined your values, think of a behavior that best illustrates each value. Be as specific as you can be in describing how someone who holds this value behaves in their work with infants.

# Value

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“Describes the worthiness of an action or belief; a principle, standard or quality considered worthwhile by the possessor.”

- Values describe the beliefs/actions that we feel are desirable
- Represent the intrinsic worth we assign to actions or belief that we deem important





*“Minds are like  
parachutes they only  
function when they  
are open.”*

*Thomas Dewar*