



Homework: How to Support the Intercultural Identity of Our Child

Discuss together with your spouse how would you describe yourself and your identity – what makes you who you are? Then try to imagine the identity of your child – what you think is going to be significant for his or her identity construction, and how can you best support it? Share your thoughts with each other.

Questions for discussion:

- What is your cultural background and how is it formed? For example, do you define yourself primarily through your ethnicity, nationality, religion, language, city you grew up in, gender, profession, hobby, age... or something else?
- Next, think how would you describe the cultural background of your child? Imagine which things might be important for his or her identity, and which are probably not so important?
- Imagine your child at different ages; which experiences are possibly similar to your own at the same age, which experiences are likely to be very different? Why?
- Is there some important aspects (ceremonies, traditions, customs, skills etc.) of your own culture that you consider to be important building blocks to your child's cultural identity, and that you would like to pass on to him or her? Discuss them with your partner.
- Is there something (traditions, lifestyles, behavior, ideologies etc.) that you strongly feel is not part of, or is even against your own culture? If yes, how would you react if your child would adopt those in his or her own life?
- Think of ways to give your child positive experiences on both cultures in your family. How can you especially support the other culture which is not the majority culture in the country you live in?
- Also, think of some simple ways to support your child's intercultural identity during his or her first years – toys, books, music, poems, games, clothes, cartoons...