

# WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN MULTICULTURAL CONTEXTS





## PROGRAMME:

- General context: intercultural pedagogy
- Mentoring & Peer Education in intercultural contexts
- Exercise: working tools
- Elaboration of emerged contents



## INTERCULTURAL PEDAGOGY

“an intercultural pedagogy in which the mentor provides **ongoing support** for and facilitation of intercultural learning and development”  
(Paige & Goode, 2009)



## INTERCULTURAL PEDAGOGY

Put principles into action requires an appropriate frame of mind, a broad skill set and a dedicated “heart set.”

Working with kids in a culturally diverse environment requires that you need to know:

- how to prepare for promoting learning and positive interaction in an intercultural setting
- how to acquire the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to adapt successfully to culturally diverse groups
- how to interact and communicate effectively with students and their parents, whatever their cultural background.

Your challenge as a mentor/coach/tutor is to capitalize on the energy of interactions among intercultural groups



INTERCULTURAL  
PEDAGOGY

*...whatever their cultural  
background...*

## **but what is CULTURE?**

an integrated pattern of human behaviour that includes thoughts, communication, languages, practices, beliefs, values, customs, courtesies, rituals, manners of interacting, and roles, relationships and expected behaviours of social groups



## INTERCULTURAL PEDAGOGY

# CULTURE

- *Is not static*: a person can belong to many cultures at the same time
- *Is not hereditary*: constantly changing by people in interactions and people entering new environments, re-create them



INTERCULTURAL  
PEDAGOGY

## ...and what is INTERCULTURE?

- Interactions between cultures where each group values traditions, perspectives and contributions of the others
- A process of sharing aiming at  
**enhance mutual understanding,  
reduce marginalization and build  
inclusion**



Toward cultural  
competences

*First steps to start an effective work that promotes positive interaction among children and people with different backgrounds*

1. **Start from yourself:** critical cultural self-reflection is the starting point in developing an intercultural perspective
2. **Build** an intercultural environment
3. Keep and **maintain** an intercultural environment
4. **Engage** community and families

Exercise:

*"Beyond the Tip of the Iceberg: Five Stages Toward Cultural Competence"* by Jerome H. Hanley





INTERCULTURAL  
PEDAGOGY

## Basic elements to put it into practices

- Using everyday intercultural experiences as the basis for reflection and discussion.
- Providing and asking constant feedback on work and activities done together
- Making space for formal and informal interculturally-oriented discussions with individuals and groups
- Importance of non-verbal communication



A CONCRETE  
TOOL:  
INTERCULTURAL  
MENTORING &  
COACHING

## A BIT IN DEPTH ON INTERCULTURAL SKILLS FOR MENTORING AND PEER EDUCATION

Intercultural peer educating and mentoring

- “a relationship with a defined purpose” Bland, 2009
- “a collaborative relationship” Bland 2009
- “a power-free partnership between two individuals who desire mutual growth” Penner 2001
- “in which learning and experimentation can occur” Kippelmeyer, 2007
- “focused on developing self...through dialogue and reflection” Kippelmeyer, 2007
- “Mutual mentoring” – “mentoring partners” Sorcinelli, nd.
- “building bridges beyond cultural, social, linguistic and educational backgrounds” Luatti, 2008



A CONCRETE  
TOOL:  
INTERCULTURAL  
MENTORING &  
COACHING

## A BIT IN DEPTH ON INTERCULTURAL SKILLS FOR MENTORING AND PEER EDUCATION

- Cultural mentoring refers to providing support for learners to develop their intercultural skills, knowledge, and competence.
- Cultural mentoring also refers to providing support for persons of diverse backgrounds (e.g. students of color, GLBTQ students, first generation college students, international students) who find themselves in a new cultural environments and contexts, or in between two different cultures (family / homeland culture, new context).



## WORKING TOOLS

# And a basic check list before you plan your intercultural activities as peer educator and mentor

### 2. Remember

- Use active listening skills (that is, clarifying and confirming).
- Show interest, attention, and empathy.
- Respect differences in learning pace, and respect silence.
- Experiment with different approaches, questions, and expressions.
- Suspend judgment.
- Before concluding on any point, clarify meaning and support connection using descriptor questions (who, what, when, how, how much, how many).
- Express your need to think about something and get back to the person so that appropriate reflection and research might be pursued.
- Be patient.
- Accept differences.

### 3. Observe

- Your own assumptions, biases, and stereotypes.
- Consistency and relevance in responses and feedback to make sure that adequate communication is taking place.
- Your own values and the underlying contrasting values that might be operating in the relationship.
- Any discomfort, disconnects, or feelings that might be at play.

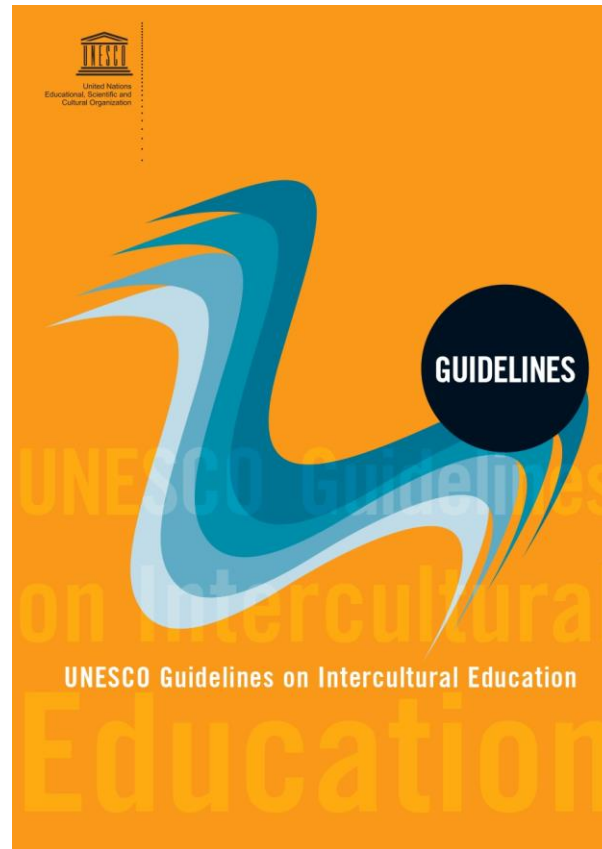
### 4. Show

- Respect.
- Reliability.



OPEN SOURCE  
WORKING TOOLS

## The UNESCO guidelines on Intercultural Education





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WORKING TOOLS

And specifically in sport context??

Supporting cultural diversity in sports clubs: game plan kit





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WORKING TOOLS

# UNESCO Toolkit Embracing Diversity



## Embracing Diversity: Toolkit for Creating Inclusive, Learning-Friendly Environments

