

Chapter 2: Understanding Family Diversity

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who defines a family?
- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| a. schools | c. families |
| b. communities | d. society |

ANS: C PTS: 1

2. Unique family customs, stories, and celebrations sustain a family's
- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| a. ethnicity. | c. race. |
| b. religion. | d. all of the above |

ANS: A PTS: 1 KEY: WWW

3. In 2004, the U.S. poverty rate for children under six stood at
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. nearly 20 percent. | c. nearly 30 percent. |
| b. nearly 15 percent. | d. none of the above |

ANS: A PTS: 1 KEY: WWW

4. The path out of poverty is typically based on
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| a. education. | c. both A and B |
| b. specialized training. | d. none of the above |

ANS: C PTS: 1

5. Economic hardship places young children at risk for
- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. difficult peer relationships | c. school problems. |
| b. low self-esteem. | d. all of the above |

ANS: D PTS: 1

6. The risks that children face due to _____ are more severe than any other factor for their optimal development and school success.
- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| a. disabilities | c. gender |
| b. race | d. poverty |

ANS: D PTS: 1

7. A psychologist who has written about the "hurried child" and "miseducation" of young children is
- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| a. Marian Wright Edelman. | c. Lev Vygotsky. |
| b. Urie Bronfenbrenner. | d. David Elkind. |

ANS: D PTS: 1 KEY: WWW

8. Gender role expectations in families may be influenced by
- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| a. culture. | c. income levels. |
| b. ethnicity. | d. all of the above |

ANS: D PTS: 1

9. What proportion of all children in the United States will spend some of their childhood in a family

headed by a single woman?

- a. 25 percent
- b. 50 percent
- c. 75 percent
- d. 90 percent

ANS: B

PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

10. Research demonstrates that children of lesbian mothers
- a. are much like other children in relation to gender role identity.
 - b. are more likely to enter lesbian relationships as adults.
 - c. are more likely to enter heterosexual relationships as adults.
 - d. are often confused and in need of mental health professionals.

ANS: A

PTS: 1

11. Which statement is most accurate?
- a. Mothers and fathers play similar roles in families.
 - b. Mothers' roles are more similar to one another; fathers' roles are more varied.
 - c. Fathers' roles are more similar to one another; mothers' roles are more varied.
 - d. There is great variation in mothers' roles across ethnicity and culture.

ANS: B

PTS: 1

12. The most important time for father presence in children's lives is probably
- a. during adolescence.
 - b. from 9 to 12 years.
 - c. from 5 to 8 years.
 - d. during the first three years of life.

ANS: D

PTS: 1

13. A family's religiosity
- a. cannot be addressed or acknowledged by early childhood teachers.
 - b. may be known or unknown by early childhood teachers.
 - c. must be respected just as other differences are respected.
 - d. both B and C

ANS: D

PTS: 1

14. Appalachian families have been documented to value
- a. financial success.
 - b. spirituality.
 - c. humility.
 - d. both B and C

ANS: D

PTS: 1

15. The ultimate goal for celebrating diversity in early childhood programs is
- a. to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness.
 - b. to be sure that each child and family feels a sense of belonging.
 - c. to demonstrate sensitivity to all types of differences in families.
 - d. all of the above

ANS: D

PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

16. Ordinary daily interactions that children have with others provide shared knowledge of
- a. a family's culture.
 - b. beliefs of other families.
 - c. relationships.
 - d. mainstream societal perspectives.

ANS: A

PTS: 1

17. Family decisions and behaviors are based on
- a. culture.
 - b. income.
 - c. values.
 - d. all of the above

ANS: D PTS: 1

18. The effects of racism
- a. impact beliefs and practices in non-majority ethnic groups.
 - b. have no influence on ethnic group beliefs or practices.
 - c. lead to conflicts within ethnic groups.
 - d. only affect individuals who have experienced such bias.

ANS: A PTS: 1 KEY: WWW

19. Children from interracial families
- a. typically identify with only one race.
 - b. see themselves as members of all races represented in their biology.
 - c. view themselves as a member of the race (s) with whom they spend the most time.
 - d. none of the above

ANS: B PTS: 1

20. Cultures
- a. are stagnant.
 - b. change in rational and predictable manners.
 - c. are not influenced by geography.
 - d. influence one another.

ANS: D PTS: 1

21. A young child's home language
- a. may or may not be English.
 - b. should not take precedence in English-speaking schools.
 - c. may differ from the language spoken most often by their families at home.
 - d. should be banned in the classroom.

ANS: A PTS: 1 KEY: WWW

22. Spanish is the first language in roughly ____ percent of families in the U.S.
- a. 20
 - b. 15
 - c. 10
 - d. 5

ANS: C PTS: 1

23. After English and Spanish, the most common languages spoken by U. S. families are
- a. Chinese, French, and German.
 - b. Russian, French, and Chinese.
 - c. Japanese, Korean, and Chinese.
 - d. French, German, and Portuguese.

ANS: A PTS: 1

24. Climate, terrain, and history are among the variables that influence differences in families related to
- a. ethnicity.
 - b. religiosity.
 - c. geography.
 - d. all of the above

ANS: C PTS: 1

25. The largest number of children living in poverty in the U.S. is from which racial/ethnic background?
- a. Black
 - b. Hispanic
 - c. Asian
 - d. White

ANS: D PTS: 1 KEY: WWW

26. Marian Wright Edelman notes that these obstacles must be removed for families to get out of poverty.
- a. lack of health care, transportation and child care
 - b. too many jobs paying minimum wage
 - c. too much competition for desirable jobs
 - d. none of the above

ANS: A PTS: 1

27. Women have been increasingly able to obtain employment that pays reasonable wages due to
- a. greater access to higher education.
 - b. changes in the social and economic climates.
 - c. easy access to high quality child care.
 - d. reliable birth control.

ANS: B PTS: 1

28. Ross Parke found that
- a. from infancy to adolescence, mothers spend more time with their children than do fathers.
 - b. from infancy to adolescence, fathers spend more time with their children than do mothers.
 - c. mothers spend more time with children during infancy, but fathers spend more time with children after age ten years.
 - d. mothers and fathers spend about equal time with children after children are about five years of age.

ANS: A PTS: 1 KEY: WWW

29. Concerns of early childhood educators regarding children of gay and lesbian families are related to
- a. children's morality.
 - b. possibilities of children spending time with sexual predators.
 - c. children's physical and psychological safety due to bigotry and hate in society.
 - d. children receiving appropriate nurturing.

ANS: C PTS: 1

30. An organization that has made a clear connection between advocating for children and families and religiosity is
- a. ASPCA.
 - b. PTA.
 - c. NAACP.
 - d. CDF.

ANS: D PTS: 1

31. The "two faces of fatherhood" refers to
- a. same-sex and opposite-sex parenting.
 - b. a current perspective that some fathers are increasing involvement with their children, but others are absent with little emotional or financial responsibility for their children.
 - c. most fathers will have children who have different mothers.
 - d. cultural differences in the role of fathers.

ANS: B PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

32. Cultural views
- a. are consistent among all members of a cultural group.
 - b. may be related to different perspectives on education.
 - c. are easily evaluated on a scale of morality.
 - d. should be subject to educational institutions' policies.

ANS: B PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

33. Cultural differences often lead to
- a. unresolvable conflict.
 - b. differences in understanding and knowledge.
 - c. denial of discrimination.
 - d. weakened microsystems.

ANS: B PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

34. When working with interracial children, teachers are best advised to
- a. check with families about which racial identification they have chosen for their child.
 - b. consider the child's physical appearance and apply that racial identification.
 - c. feature cultural customs of all races represented in each child.
 - d. ignore racial differences in the classroom.

ANS: C PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

35. The iceberg model of culture is an effort to
- a. identify cultures that are emotionally cooler or warmer.
 - b. explain that while some cultural behaviors and customs are easily observable, others are less concrete but deeply rooted in individuals.
 - c. describe ways that discrimination is intentional.
 - d. relate cultural differences to climate differences.

ANS: B PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

36. In the United States, rates of poverty
- a. differ significantly by geographic region.
 - b. are close to the national average in all regions.
 - c. tend to vary widely based on economic conditions.
 - d. are usually highest in New England states.

ANS: A PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

37. Families from which geographic region tend to emphasize the importance of spirituality over financial success?
- a. Southern
 - b. Northwestern
 - c. Appalachians
 - d. Great Smokies

ANS: C PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

38. The role of the school principal is _____ in relation to family involvement.
- a. minimal
 - c. equated to any given teacher

b. critical

d. unknown

ANS: B PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

39. Teachers practicing in early intervention or early childhood special education settings must build partnerships with families
- by contracting with each family to track their engagement with their child's education.
 - by treating each and every family the same.
 - by downplaying a child's special needs and focusing only on strengths.
 - by demonstrating respect and knowledge about educating children.

ANS: D PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

40. Which of the following suggestions is not included in relation to diversity and the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct?
- Children are best understood in the context of family, culture, community and society.
 - Welcome all family members and encourage them to participate in the program.
 - Through sensitive observation, decide which family members would be the best classroom volunteers and then confidentially invite them to participate in this capacity.
 - Respect the dignity and preferences of each family.

ANS: C PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

41. The risks faced by ____ children are unmatched by any other single variable.
- poor
 - working class
 - cultural minority
 - preschool

ANS: A PTS: 1

KEY: WWW

MATCHING

Match the numbered questions with the corresponding letter answer.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. ethnicity | f. love and emotional support |
| b. race | g. gender role |
| c. culture | h. feminist perspective |
| d. inclusive practice | i. patriarchal perspective |
| e. poverty | j. all areas of diversity |

- celebration of diversity leads to this
- characteristic based on physical differences of humans
- key characteristic of all families
- supports the idea that women and girls are competent
- a group's "peoplehood"
- females' relevance is only in context of relationships with males
- unique experiences and history of a group of people
- the most serious risk factor for young children
- family involvement policies must now consider
- set of expectations about how men and women should act

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| 1. ANS: D | PTS: 1 |
| 2. ANS: B | PTS: 1 |
| 3. ANS: F | PTS: 1 |
| 4. ANS: H | PTS: 1 |
| 5. ANS: A | PTS: 1 |
| 6. ANS: I | PTS: 1 |
| 7. ANS: C | PTS: 1 |
| 8. ANS: E | PTS: 1 |
| 9. ANS: J | PTS: 1 |
| 10. ANS: G | PTS: 1 |

ESSAY

1. It is important that early childhood teachers understand the deleterious effects of poverty on young children and families. Explain three reasons that early childhood teachers might be concerned. Also, explain some of the documented effects of poverty on young children.

ANS:

Reasons for concern:

- Number of young children living in poverty is increasing.

Families do not reap enough redistribution of income from government.

- Current political view about role of government does not allow for meaningful ways to assist poor families.

Effects of poverty on children:

- high-risk status
- difficult peer relationships
- school problems
- low self-esteem
- neighborhood violence
- prejudice against poor families

PTS: 1

2. Recommendations for practices that foster an inclusive environment so that all families can participate in their children's education have been offered by Boethel. List and discuss at least five of these practices.

ANS:

- All family involvement policies must focus on all areas of diversity.
- The school principal plays a critical role in meaningful family involvement.
- Actively support and respect that all families have high aspirations for their children.
- Both similarities and differences must be acknowledged.
- Teacher preparation and professional development must include in-depth content in the area of working with families.
- Schools must help immigrant families understand the system.
- Go an extra mile to support families in their involvement in children's education.
- Trust is crucial, but it takes time to develop.

PTS: 1

3. Define and explain differences among the terms: ethnicity, race and culture. How is it helpful for teachers to understand these terms?

ANS:

- Ethnicity: concept of a group's "peoplehood" that includes race, religion, cultural history, part of one's psychological identity
- Race: physical differences in people that include skin tone and facial structure; Mongoloid, Negroid, Caucasoid
- Culture: an ethnic group's unique experiences and history. It is learned, characteristic of groups, rules for behavior, cultures share rules, individuals embedded to differing degrees and often are not able to describe the rules

PTS: 1

4. Illustrate and explain the iceberg model for understanding culture. Provide an anecdote related to this model from your lived experiences.

ANS:

- Iceberg drawing with labels for concrete, behavioral and symbolic levels of understanding culture
- Concrete: most visible to those outside the culture
- Behavioral: language, social roles, cultural values
- Symbolic: difficult for those outside culture to detect and implicit in practices and values of those within the culture

PTS: 1

5. Discuss language differences among families and paraphrase the four recommendations made by NAEYC for respecting linguistic diversity when working with families.

ANS:

- English, English language learners, home language, family literacy
- Active involvement with families
- Awareness of cognitive benefits of more than one language
- Strategies to help families to preserve home language
- Honoring home language and culture

PTS: 1

6. Identify and explain seven research-based determinants of father involvement in their children's lives. Explain how you will apply any aspect of these determinants to encourage father involvement with the children that you are teaching or will teach.

ANS:

- Fathers' relationships with their own parents
- Fathers' belief systems about roles of parents
- Attitudes of the mother
- Marital relationships
- Timing of fatherhood

- Family employment patterns
- Work quality

PTS: 1

7. Select four of the eight research-based recommendations for specific ways to involve diverse families in their children's education, also referred to as inclusiveness. Of the four that you selected, choose one and explain why you believe it to be the most important recommendation.

ANS:

- All family involvement policies should focus on all areas of diversity.
- Active support from the school principal is critical.
- Demonstrate appreciation for efforts of all families and family members.
- Acknowledge both similarities and differences.
Teacher preparation programs and professional development must focus on family partnerships.
- School personnel must help immigrant families to understand the system.
- Go the extra mile.
- Trust is crucial, but takes time.

PTS: 1