Culturally Responsive Pedagogy: Some Key Features

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What Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (CRP) is not:

• A pre-determined curriculum
• A specific set of strategies
• A watering down of the curriculum
• A “feel-good” approach
• Only for students of particular backgrounds

What CRP is:

• A mindset that respects and honors students’ individuality as well as their cultures, experiences, and histories
• A way to include these in the curriculum and through teaching approaches
• A commitment to continuing to learn about one’s students’ individuality as well as their cultures, experiences, and histories
• A stance and a set of dispositions including:
  o Engaging in critical self-reflection about one’s values, biases, strengths, and limitations, and how these can affect one’s effectiveness with students of diverse backgrounds
  o Valuing language and culture in word and deed
  o Insisting on high quality and excellent work from all students
  o Affirming students’ identities while also expanding their world
- Honoring families
- Exemplifying a commitment to life-long learning

Some Practical Examples:

- Learn to say students’ names correctly
- Label room with languages spoken by students
- Display the work of all students
- Learn as much as you can about your students
- Get to know your students’ families by engaging in authentic family outreach
- Learn another language
- Learn about and become involved in the community

**Recommended Brief Bibliography**


New York: Teachers College Press.


