

STUDENTS FROM CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS – TIPS FOR PRACTICE EDUCATORS

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- Consider the impact that culture and language has on learning, communication, engagement and demonstration of knowledge. Consider also its influence on response to feedback.
 - Provide a safe environment for all students to communicate openly, and encourage student contribution to discussion.
 - Acknowledge cultural differences in terms of respect for hierarchy and communication between levels.
 - Provide explicit modelling and labelling of culturally appropriate communication behaviours e.g. body language, eye contact etc.
 - Make expectations clear about what is expected in your setting e.g. all students needing to contribute to questions, feedback and team communications.
 - Give the student time to think before responding to assist them to translate think-to-speak in different languages.
 - Check understanding by asking the student to tell you what their understanding is of the concept just discussed or ask some “checking” questions (open style) to assess their level of understanding e.g. “So, let’s summarise, tell me what you now know about.....”; “Can you give me a quick summary of those instructions so I know I have explained them clearly for you?”; “So now we have talked about xxxxx a little, what would you do differently next time.....?”; “So let’s check, what are you going to be sure to do in.....?”
 - Provide explicit permission for the student to let you know they have not understood something and that it’s ok to ask for clarification.
 - Consider providing a structure for situations where you want the student to contribute so that they have some format to follow. This may increase the volume of what they contribute to discussions. In student group situations, you could get them to prepare contributions to feedback/debrief etc in advance or even have students discuss in pairs before group feedback.
 - Use written as well as verbal feedback to give students time to take it away and reflect on it more easily. You could even ask them to write a quick summary or action plan to help consolidate the idea or to check understanding.
 - Clinical Education Liaison Managers are available to provide assistance and support to all students and educators. Early contact gives maximum opportunity for positive intervention
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