

Social Justice Education in the Early Years

Summer Institute on Early Childhood Development, OISE/UT

Zeenat Janmohamed
School of Social & Community
Services

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The sacred land on which the city of Toronto operates has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory.

- Tkaronto, "Where The Trees Meet The Water"; "The Gathering Place"

- Traditional territory used by the Mississaugas, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishnaabe and the Huron-Wyndat Nations

*Bob Crawford,
Aboriginal Services
George Brown College*

Responding to Stress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aDXM5H-Fuw>



The Lived Experience: Creating discomfort

- Group Privilege Walk...
 - Poverty
 - Citizenship
 - Race
 - Family status
 - Ability
 - Language
 - Sexuality

What is Privilege

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD5f8GuNuGQ>



EVERYDAY LANGUAGE

Examine the use of everyday language

words
have
power



words
have
power

Racist Phrases/Words

- “Blackmail”
- “Devil’s food cake”
- “Angel’s food cake”

- Other examples

Ontario Human Rights Code

- Established in 1962 (first in Canada)
- Five areas of protection:
 - Employment (including Volunteer Work)
 - Housing
 - Goods, Services & Facilities
 - Membership in Vocational Associations & Trade Unions
 - Contacts

Prohibited Grounds of *the Code*

- Age
- Ancestry
- Citizenship
- Colour
- Creed
- Disability (emotional & physical)
- Ethnic Origin
- Family Status
- Gender Expression*
- Gender Identity*
- Race
- Receipt of Public Assistance (Housing Only)
- Record of Offences (Employment Only)
- **Sex** (includes gender, pregnancy & breastfeeding)
- Sexual Orientation
- Marital Status (includes being single)
- Place of Origin

Microaggressions

- What are they?
- Microassaults
- Microinsults
- Microinvalidations



Microaggressions

- Brief and common everyday humiliations that can be verbal, behavioural or environmental
- They can be intentional or unintentional but they communicate unfriendly offensive racial slights and insults toward people of color and other marginalized groups.

Demean a person's racial heritage or identity. EX. Saying certain races cannot drive, don't bathe, are unintelligent.

Excludes or negates a person's thoughts or feelings. EX. Saying, "what do you know, you are a woman"

Publicly supported holidays defined by religion (policy)

Demean requests for prayer spaces

Case Study One:

Family with toddler visits child care centre. Four adults arrive and introduce themselves as the parents. In conversation, you learn they share a home so that all parents can be actively engaged in their child's life.

Q.Do you have a right to inquire about who the birth parents are?



Case Study Two:

Ramadan just began on May 27th. You don't really understand the event but you take the time to learn through on-line research.

You are aware that one of the family support workers is Muslim and you are worried about her capacity to work while she is fasting.

Q. Do you have the right to ask about her well being?

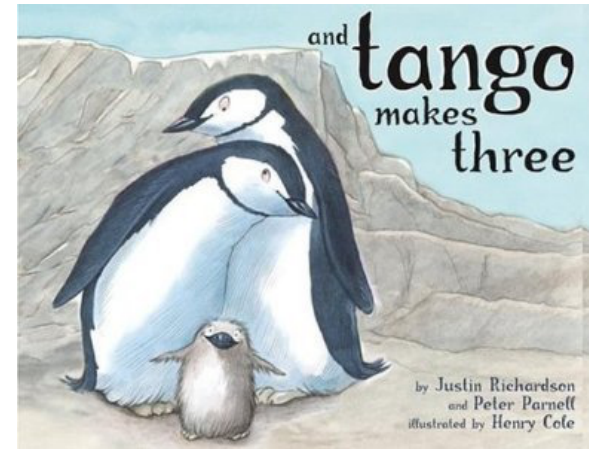


Case Study Three:

Pride celebrations are coming up in June. One of the staff displays material including the rainbow flag, covers of books including *Tango Make Three* and *King & King*.

One of the parents shares their concerns informing you that the display is offensive and inappropriate in a child's program.

Q. Do your staff have the capacity to respond?



Thanks to:

Alessandro Ricci

Zuby Saloojee

GBC: Diversity, Equity and Human Rights

Contact information:

Zeenat Janmohamed, Ph.D.

Chair, School of Social and Community Services
and School of Deaf and Deafblind Studies

zjanmoha@georgebrown.ca