



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Central Carolinas

Diversity

Acceptance & Celebration of Differences

Our diversity is our strength. What a dull and pointless life it would be if everyone was the same.
:: Angelina Jolie

TEACHING DIVERSITY

Our world is incredibly diverse. Kids are going to encounter people much different than them on a daily basis, and teaching them how to accept others can seem challenging. PBS has a great [article](#) on the topic with tips like:

Start With Us: Your child/Little is listening to and watching you more than you realize. Set an example for them by avoiding stereotypical remarks. Make sure your actions back up your words, otherwise they won't truly learn.

Get Out of Your Comfort Zone: Although America is increasingly diverse, we still tend to segregate ourselves. Use the internet to learn about differences together, or go explore a cultural festival in your city. Accepting differences must be a key part of our lives if we are to teach our children how to accept and respect others.

Listen & Respond: When your child/Little asks about differences, really listen to what and how they are asking the question. Are they using offensive or stereotypical language? Help them understand why such words are hurtful and explain why stereotypes can not only be hurtful, but dangerous.

Don't Be Blind to Differences: Kids notice differences in their peers – names, dress, food, etc. They are naturally curious about these things! It is our job to help them learn about those differences and appreciate them, not ignore them.

*Thank you for taking the time to be part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas. Keep an eye out for next month's topic: **Safety First!***

Imagine a world where everything is the same every single day – your clothes, your meals, TV shows, music, and the people you interact with. When everything is identical, there is no creativity or excitement. How boring life would be! Luckily, we live in a diverse world. Diversity makes life interesting. It challenges us to see from another's perspective, it fuels creativity, and ultimately it unites us. Learn about and celebrate diversity with us in this month's M.Ed.S. topic, Diversity!

DIVERSLY DELICIOUS

Thomas Jefferson is credited with bringing [macaroni & cheese](#) to the U.S.A. after becoming enamored with fancy pasta dishes during a trip to France. He even bought a pasta machine to take to America!



Curious what other food favorites we need to thank diversity for? Hop over to [Spoon University](#) to find out!



The [holidays](#) are full of diversity! Different celebrations, traditions, religions, etc. But if we look closely, we can find many similarities. For example Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa are three holidays from different religions/cultures. They don't celebrate the same thing, involve the same songs or treats, nor do they fall on the same day. However, all three occur during winter months, use candles symbolically, and bring people together. Talk with your Little/child about some of their special holiday traditions, and spend some time learning about how families celebrate [around the world](#). Share your special traditions with us by sending holiday photos of you and your Little to your MSS Staff Member!



Although this video is from Denmark, it has an important message for everyone all over the world. Watch it and have a conversation with your child/Little about all that you share. Want more? Watch [this video](#) about the beauty of diversity through our DNA.

Want to get out and experience something new? Check out these Charlotte festival guides for fun and family friendly ideas:
[Charlotte Culture Guide](#)
[Charlotte Parent – Cultural Events](#)
[Everfest - Charlotte Festivals 2017-2018](#)

Visit these websites with your child/Little to explore cultures across the globe. It's as easy as clicking a button:
[Culture Crossing Guide](#)
[What The World Eats](#)
[Family Possessions Around The World](#)