

The Social and Cultural Influences Regarding Parents and Family Involvement: The Experience of Saudi Arabian Preschool Teachers

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ABSTRACT

This session will provide a short overview of developmentally and culturally appropriate practices as they support children overall development in across multicultural contexts. Among many approaches of educating young children, DAP provides an integrated approach to support and extend children's learning through building a relationship with families and strengthen home-school boundary. In this session, presenter will link the concept of home-school relationships to the DAP philosophy. This presentation will discuss how DAP offers children the greatest possible combination of learning experiences in which children, parents, and family members are involved. Close attention will be given to some cultural influences on developing reciprocal relationships with families. To show the influence of culture and people's traditions on education, a case study of 11 Saudi female preschool teachers and their perceptions regarding some aspects of DAP that related to parent and family involvement will be presented. Educational experiences within the cultural and the social aspects of Saudi Arabian early childhood education will be discussed. Moreover, a new initiative to enhance the Saudi educational system (*IrrtiQaa Program*) regarding home-school partnership will be shared. The program launched in 2016 as a part of Saudi Vision concerning the future of Saudi Young children and their families.

Keywords: appropriate practices; child development; parent-teacher relationships.