



Open Your Mind to Diversity...

## ‘Flavours of the World’



Prepared for: State of North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Schools and Further Education

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Mission

Promoting diversity, integration and inclusion.

### Vision

- To encourage effective intercultural communication.
- To promote ethnic equity and social inclusion.
- To support gender sensitisation.

### Project Goals

The program aims to improve the rapport among students in a multicultural environment and to move beyond classroom 'integration' towards classroom 'inclusion'. It focuses on children between the ages of 10 and 11, as they leave elementary school, in order to create a lasting, long-term and sustainable impact; thereby leading to an environment of increased tolerance and respect for diversity, both at school and at home.

### Project Outline

The project will be carried forward as a 'two day weekend program', delivered by the teachers in the three chosen schools.

- As a precursor to the program, the teachers will be given a two hour training session one week prior to the scheduled program date.
- Day 1:

The first set of activities will be conducted by the teachers during school hours, in the latter half of the school day on a Friday. The activities to be conducted are as follows:

1. 'Sounds of Diversity': An ice-breaker that doesn't require a lot of cognitive effort and offers children an initial contact with cultural diversity. The activity consists of playing traditional music from different parts of the world, and teaching them dance steps associated with said music. The aim of the activity is to develop a positive attitude towards unfamiliar cultural practices.
  2. 'Lets Plan Our Year Together': The children would be provided with a blank calendar, which they would then fill with important dates such as national days, religious festivities, international days, etc. The purpose of this activity is to introduce children to days that are important to non-natives of the country, and create an environment of acceptance. Owing to the fact that the calendar would be put up on the wall, and stay with the class for the rest of the year, this activity helps create a long-term impact on the children.
  3. 'The Multicultural Outfit': For this activity, the children would be asked to bring pieces of clothing, accessories, etc. that represent their cultures. They would then use these items to dress up two human standees, while explaining the importance of each item. Once the standees have been fully dressed, each child would place their face in the empty space (left as a hole in the head of the human standee) and get
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their picture taken. The purpose of this activity is to point out the complexity of cultural identity and how differences co-exist despite being shocking at first glance.

- Day 2:

The second day, Saturday, would be an evening to showcase the results and artwork created on day 1 of the program.

1. 'Tasting Diversity': For this activity, parents would cook, and bring in one dish unique to the children's native culture, on Saturday evening. As a precursor, the children would be required to bring in the recipe of said dish, on the previous day and hand it in to the teachers, who would then put them together as a 'recipe book'.
2. On the day of the showcase, the kids would be asked to set the tables and distribute the food, while the teachers would set up the exhibition for the parents. Once set up, the parents and children have the opportunity to share a meal while viewing the showcase.

The purpose of this activity is 'parent involvement'. Food is something that not only excites but unites all.

Through the medium of cooking and sharing a multicultural meal, we aim to open the dialogue about cultural diversity and ethnic equity, not only between children and their parents but also between the parents themselves.

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