

A photograph of three young girls of Asian descent blowing bubbles outdoors. The girl in the foreground is wearing a grey tank top and is blowing a bubble with an orange ring. The girl in the middle is wearing an orange dress and is also blowing a bubble. The girl in the background is wearing a pink shirt and is smiling. The background is a soft-focus green field with trees.

Connecting Children to Culture

**IMPROVING CULTURAL
RESPONSIVENESS FOR FOSTER CARE
PRACTITIONERS AND CARERS**

Settlement Services International's (SSI) *My Life and Me* life story resources, in addition to its cultural responsiveness training, aim to meet the needs of practitioners and carers in working with children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.



“I am living with carers with a similar background as my parents, and I love it. I feel that I am home with my own parents.”

– Boy, 12 years old, matched carer placement.

“I love when Josefina comes and supports me and my carers to maintain my culture. I feel proud and happy.”

– Girl, 10 years old, unmatched carer placement.



Why is cultural responsiveness important?

Children brought up with their birth family are naturally surrounded by their history. Their development and identity is inadvertently shaped by observations and interactions with family members.

When children and young people from CALD backgrounds are in foster care they can lose access to important cultural, religious and linguistic influences which shape the development of identity and belonging; a loss of connection to culture can have immediate and ongoing detrimental effects on the child or young person.

Improving your cultural awareness

Your ability to work with children and young people from CALD backgrounds benefits when you as a practitioner or carer can reflect on your attitudes towards different cultures and consider your views and values about specific cultural elements. Recognising and acknowledging any unintended biases can assist you in preparing for the conversations with your child or young person and others who may assist in contributing to their life story work.

Partner with SSI

Settlement Services International can help you, as a foster care provider, increase the capacity of your staff and carers in meeting the cultural needs of children and young people from CALD backgrounds.

We invite you to partner with us to work together and develop a tailored approach for your own life story work and cultural responsiveness training.

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To enquire about partnership opportunities, please contact SSI Multicultural Foster Care:

For NSW:

t: 02 8713 9200

e: fostercare@ssi.org.au

For VIC:

t: 1800 955 774

e: vicfostercare@ssi.org.au

www.multiculturalfostercare.ssi.org.au

We look forward to working together to improve outcomes for the children and young people we all support.