

Worldview: What is it and How does it impact our work with diverse families?

Worldview



- A worldview is simply a basic set of beliefs.
 - Things like whether or not God exists.
 - Beliefs about good & evil
 - Beliefs about the meaning of life.

In essence, worldviews are the basic beliefs that we use to make sense of the world.

Worldview

- The teachings of Yoda

- "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

Yoda

<http://youtu.be/HMUKGTkiWik>



Yoda's World View

- Based on what Yoda is saying, what can we hypothesize about his worldview?

Worldview (continued)



Example:

Two people standing in an art museum. One is color blind and the other is not. The color-blind person will see only shades of gray. The person with normal vision will see the rich colors of paintings. These different pairs of eyes see different things. These pairs of eyes are like worldviews.

Different worldviews cause people to understand the world differently.

Worldview

- Represents the way we view ourselves, others and the world at large.
- They are transmitted from generation to generation through education, family tradition, religious belief, political orientation, and the mass media.
- So this has a big impact when working with families.

Worldview

- “Evolve out of direct response to the development of our consciousness, which in turn is shaped by the sum of our unique individual life experiences and collective cultural histories” (International Education for Peace Institute, 2007, p. 31)
- It’s through our worldview that we define our understanding of the nature of reality, the purpose of acquiring knowledge, and the purpose of human life.
- Worldview does not just affect our perception of the world, but also determine the nature of our relationships, the type of societies we create, the ways we approach science and religion, and the manner in which we deal with challenges and opportunities in our lives.

Worldview

- Worldview affects every aspect of our lives and everything we do.

Worldview (continued)



- Predominant American values emphasize:
 - Individualism & privacy
 - Equality
 - Informality
 - Future, change, & progress
 - Goodness of humanity
 - Time
 - Achievement, action, work & materialism
 - Directness & assertiveness

Worldview (continued)



- Many long-term residents of the U.S. will ascribe to the aforementioned values & others may choose to retain the major values of their native culture

Acculturation

- Acculturation-is a process in which members of one cultural group adopt the beliefs and behaviors of another group.
- Although acculturation is usually in the direction of a minority group adopting habits and language patterns of the dominant group, acculturation can be reciprocal-- that is, the dominant group also adopts patterns typical of the minority group

Acculturation (continued)

- Cultural Integration (Sanday, as cited in Green, 1995)
 - 4 Categories reflect the degree to which the members of a cultural or ethnic group have integrated their values:
 - Mainstreamers
 - Bicultural individuals
 - Culturally different individuals
 - Culturally marginal individuals

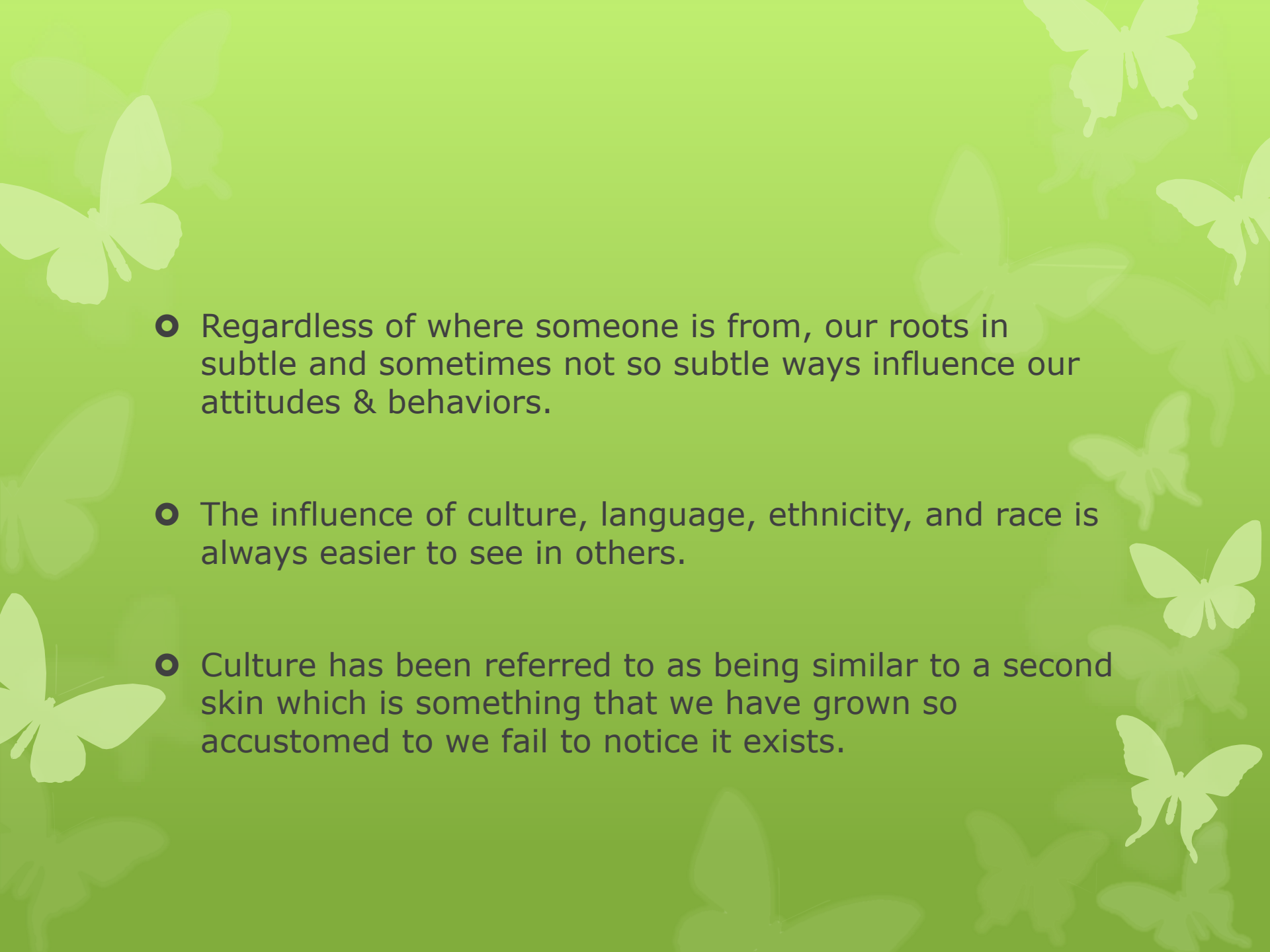
Cultural Integration (continued)

Mainstreamers (**Assimilation**)-involvement and identification with the dominant culture only.

Bicultural individuals (**Integration**)-involvement and identification with both cultures.

Culturally different individuals (**Separation**) involvement and identification with the ethnic culture only.

Culturally marginal individuals (**Marginalization**) -lack of involvement and identification with either; however, there is little theoretical or empirical support for this strategy (Berry, Phinney, Sam, & Vedder, 2006)

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- Regardless of where someone is from, our roots in subtle and sometimes not so subtle ways influence our attitudes & behaviors.
 - The influence of culture, language, ethnicity, and race is always easier to see in others.
 - Culture has been referred to as being similar to a second skin which is something that we have grown so accustomed to we fail to notice it exists.

Reasons for Difficulty in Recognizing Biases

- Cultural understanding is typically established during the preschool years.
- Values are determined by one's first culture and may have to be revised.
- Long-standing behavior patterns are typically used to express one's deepest values.