Culture and Socialization in the classroom

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Socialization and culture are so important! As someone who has lived in other countries (Mexico and South Korea), I have personal experience on the process of learning new social norms associated with different cultures. We can't take for granted that students instinctively know our expectations and the prescribed behavior of our cultural norms. Classroom routines and clearly stated expectations are a way that we can socialize our students to the classroom culture.

I think value for diversity and culturally sensitivity begin in the classroom by the teacher's example. It is very important that we model for our students tolerance and acceptance of those who are different than we are. As someone who has had the opportunity to be exposed to diverse cultures inside and outside of our country, it is my deep belief that cultural sensitivity and global awareness are some of the most valuable perspectives to be cultivated in our students. The reality of our world is that we are a global society -- diversity is the norm around the world. And for our students to function as effective adults in society, they need to be exposed and sensitive and able to work with diverse cultural perspectives. And the diversity of students in our classroom is one of our greatest tools to instill appreciation and respect for our own cultures and the cultures of others in our students. Accessing students' unique background knowledge and culturally grounded applications and examples through cooperative learning and reciprocal teaching is a great way to promote a global worldview in the classroom by engaging students in their own cultural predispositions and those of their peers.