



Farida Sheikh  
Shaping Minds, One Page

# Cultural Sensitivity Map


*Helping Teachers and Parents Support Diverse Learners with Respect and Understanding*

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Shaping Minds, One Page at a Time

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### **Purpose of This Tool**

The Cultural Sensitivity Map is a reflective and practical tool to help educators and parents evaluate whether learning environments are inclusive, respectful, and responsive to the cultural backgrounds of the children they serve.

It supports users in:

- Recognising and reflecting on cultural blind spots
- Designing inclusive learning environments
- Encouraging respectful conversations at home and in school
- Ensuring cultural values are honoured in communication, instruction, and collaboration

This tool is inspired by the Tricycle Model principle of inclusivity and helps ensure all children feel seen, heard, and valued.

### **Background: Why Cultural Sensitivity Matters**

Education doesn't happen in a vacuum. Every child brings their own cultural context — language, faith, traditions, beliefs, communication styles — into the classroom and home learning space.

#### **Yet well-meaning adults may unintentionally:**

- Ignore cultural cues
- Use examples or references that feel alien to the child
- Enforce one-size-fits-all behaviour expectations
- Overlook the family's worldview or learning preferences

These gaps can lead to emotional disconnection, behavioural misunderstandings, or a lack of engagement — especially in multicultural, multilingual, or migrant communities.

### **The Challenge We're Solving**

In many classrooms and homes:

- Curriculum materials may not reflect children's identities
- Misunderstandings arise from cultural expectations (e.g. eye contact, silence, gestures)
- Families feel left out or disrespected by school procedures
- Teachers may feel underprepared to address cultural needs

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## Cultural Sensitivity Map

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- Children may struggle to reconcile home values with school norms

This tool offers a non-judgemental way to start the conversation and drive inclusive action.

### Our Solution: The Cultural Sensitivity Map

This visual and reflective tool helps users map:

1. What they know about a child's cultural background
2. How that culture is acknowledged in the learning environment
3. What blind spots exist
4. Which steps can be taken to strengthen inclusion

### It's built around five cultural domains:

1. Language
2. Values & Beliefs
3. Family Roles
4. Communication Styles
5. Traditions & Celebrations

### Cultural Sensitivity Mapping Template

Domain	What We Know	Is it Reflected in School/Home?	What's Missing or Misunderstood?	Next Step
Language				
Values & Beliefs				
Family Roles				
Communication Styles				
Traditions & Celebrations				



### Implementation Suggestions

- Use at the start of the year for every student in diverse settings
- Revisit during parent meetings or when challenges arise
- Use in teacher training as a cultural lens exercise
- Encourage schools to incorporate this into inclusive policies

### Reflection Prompts

#### For Teachers:

- What cultural norms do I assume in my classroom routines?
- Have I asked families about their expectations, values, or customs?
- Am I representing diverse cultures in curriculum and materials?

#### For Parents:

- Does my child feel their identity is respected at school?
- Have I shared our cultural practices with the teacher?
- How can I help my child celebrate their culture in learning?

### Checklist for Inclusive Practice

Statement	Yes	Not Yet
I have a working understanding of each child's cultural background		
Cultural differences are reflected in learning materials		
I've asked questions instead of making assumptions		
I've made space for family input in school decisions		
I've supported the child in navigating dual identities		

### Conclusion: Inclusion Begins with Awareness

Cultural sensitivity isn't about knowing everything. It's about **staying curious**, asking better questions, and committing to **mutual respect**.

The Cultural Sensitivity Map helps teachers and parents walk alongside children — not in front of them — as they explore, affirm, and celebrate their identities.

When we honour culture, we build belonging. And when children feel they belong, **learning becomes meaningful, safe, and joyful**.

### What's Next? Expand Your Inclusive Practice

#### The Tricycle Model: A Holistic Approach to Education

Available on Amazon

<https://mybook.to/tircyclewebsite>

#### Right Vision Academy

CPD-accredited workshops on inclusion and holistic practice

<https://rightvisionacademy.com>

#### More downloadable tools:

<https://faridasheikh.com/free-resources>

#### Let's Hear from You

Have you used the Cultural Sensitivity Map?  
What insights did you gain?

We invite your reflections and testimonials:

<https://faridasheikh.com/feedback>

Email: [info@rightvisionacademy.com](mailto:info@rightvisionacademy.com)

#### Share Your Story

Your experience can help others on the same journey.

If this tool changed how you view inclusion, tell us how. With your permission, we may feature your story in upcoming training sessions or resource guides.

