The Impact of Socializing Agents in the Hispanic Culture on Home / School Collaboration

Presented by Iva Palmer
Floyd County Schools
Learning Targets

- I can name at least two socializing agents in the Hispanic culture
- I can list and describe at least two ways I can use my knowledge of socializing agents to improve school/home collaboration
- I can apply my knowledge of socializing agents in the Hispanic culture to my instructional planning
Hispanic Culture

• Hispanic or Latino – refers to the culture and people of Latin America who speak Spanish.

• Hispanic is not a term that relates to race, but ethnicity

• Most Spanish-speaking Latinos’ ancestry is European
Spanish Speaking World

Countries where Spanish has official language status.

Situation in the United States of America:
- States of the United States where Spanish has no official status but is spoken by 25% or more of the population.
- States of the United States where Spanish has no official status but is spoken by 10-20% of the population.
- States of the United States where Spanish has no official status but is spoken by 5-9% of the population.
- Countries or regions where Spanish is spoken without official recognition, or where creoles of Spanish origin are spoken, with or without official recognition.
Hispanic Population in the U.S.
Hispanic Population Rise

Hispanics: 1970 to 2050

Population in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Census</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>Projections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>14.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>22.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>52.0</td>
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<td>2020*</td>
<td>66.4</td>
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<td>2030*</td>
<td>85.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2040*</td>
<td>108.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2050*</td>
<td>132.8</td>
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*Projected Population as of July 1

Languages of Floyd County Schools’ English Learners

- Arabic: 24
- Chinese: 5
- Gujarati: 12
- Hindi: 1
- Italian: 2
- Japanese: 3
- Korean: 1
- Other Asian: 7
- Other European: 1
- Other Indian: 3
- Punjabi: 2
- Spanish: 613
- Thai: 4
- Urdu: 8
- Vietnamese: 3

Total: 89%
613 Native Spanish Speakers

*Place of Birth*

- Colombia: 85%
- El Salvador: 6%
- Guatemala: 7%
- Mexico: Unknown
- United States: Unknown
- Venezuela: Unknown

No data provided for Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, United States, and Venezuela.
85% of EL’s in Floyd County

- Born in the United States
- Spanish speaking
- Hispanic culture
Socializing Agents
What is a Socializing Agent?

• **Socialization** - lifelong interactive process of cultural learning

• **Agent of socialization** – anything that creates the social context in which socialization takes place
Socializing Agents

- Family
- Media
- Peers

The Individual
Cushner’s Cultural Identity and Socializing Agents Wheel

Variations in Cultural Environments

Although the **sources** of cultural identity are the same in all society, the **content** in those sources may be different.
The Individual

Family

Peer Group

School

Neighborhood

Church

Community
Our Focus Today

- Family
- Church
Family as a Socializing Agent
Family and Family Values

- The most important social unit
- “Family unit" includes not only parents and children but also extended family.
- Grandparents frequently live in the same home or nearby.
Typical Hispanic Family

- The father is the head of the family
- The mother is responsible for the home and children
- Children are treasured and cherished as the “jewels of the family”
Significance of Extended Family

- Strong family ties and loyalty
- Hierarchy and interdependence
- Closeness and cooperation
- Members place the needs of the family ahead of individual concerns
- Moral responsibility for extended family members
- Social, emotional, and financial support for family members having difficulties - financial problems, unemployment, illness etc.
- Extended family network may include close friends
Children

- Taught to have *good manners*, show *respect* for authority and the elderly
- A child’s behavior reflects on the *honor* of the family
- Hispanic adolescents are more likely to adopt their parents' religious and political beliefs, occupational preferences, and lifestyle
Frequent and Large Family Gatherings
Cultural Heritage

- Preserving the Spanish language
- Celebrations of cultural heritage
Church as a Socializing Agent
More than 90% of Spanish speakers in the world are Roman Catholic.
Religion as a Socializing Agent

- In many cultures, religion is centered around a church or another place of worship.
- In the Hispanic communities in the United States, church has a significant influence upon daily activities, family life and community affairs.
Church and Family

- Religion is central to marriage and family
- Religious teachings provide guidance on how to live within the context of the family
- The church is also a source of help and support for families during difficult times
Family Altars

• Families frequently have altars in the living rooms or bedrooms which are decorated with candles and pictures of saints and the Virgin Mary.
• Saints are revered and prayed to for special reasons.
Religious Holidays

• Cause for family gatherings and celebrations.

• Families and communities in the Hispanic culture celebrate their patron saint’s day with even more importance than they would personal birthdays.
Catholic Religious Calendar

- January 6: Día de los Santos Reyes (Day of Epiphany)
- January 17: Feast Day of San Antonio de Abad
- February 2: Día de la Candelaria or Candlemas
- February 28 to March 4, 2014: Carnaval
- March 5, 2014: Ash Wednesday
- March 19: St. Joseph's Day
- April 13-20, 2014: Semana Santa (Holy Week)
- May 3: Holy Cross Day
- June 22: Corpus Christi
- June 24: Saint John the Baptist Day
- June 29: Fiesta of Saint Peter and Saint Paul
- November 1&2: Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
- December 12: Día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
- December 16-December 24: Las Posadas
- December 25: Navidad (Christmas)
Educational Implications

- Culturally Proficient Educators
- Increasing Family Engagement
  - Within the Classroom
Culturally Proficient Educators
Cultural Competence

- Continuous expansion of cultural knowledge and resources
- Acceptance and respect for differences
- Ongoing assessment of one’s own and the organization’s culture
- Attention to the dynamics of difference
- Adaptation of one’s values and behaviors and the organization’s policies and practices
General Considerations

• Hispanic students’ strong sense of other-directedness conflicts with the United States' mainstream emphasis on individualism

• Identity formation and individuation can be especially challenging and problematic
Addressing Potential Problems

- Acknowledge and celebrate cultural diversity
- Group counseling with peers who are experiencing similar conflicts
- Fostering “familismo” - close bond between immediate and extended family members
Increasing Family Engagement
Obstacles to Parent Involvement

• Parents in the Hispanic community expect the school to do all the teaching, but American schools want parents to be a part of the educational team.

• Hispanic parents are usually unsure about what to do and are also uncomfortable because of the language barrier.
Things We Can Do

• Create a warm, caring, inviting school atmosphere - particular attention should be given to *gaining and maintaining trust*
• Bilingual communication - newsletters, calendars and other school materials
• Personal positive contacts in person or through phone calls
• Home visits - an extension of courtesy on the part of the school
• Use interpreters for conferences
Scheduling School Activities and Events

- Schedule activities and events based on the interest of the parents and students
- Consider religious holidays when scheduling
- Include both immediate and extended families
- A personal invitation - the most effective way to make parents feel welcome (phone call or home visit)
- Include community members in the invitations
- When possible, provide transportation and childcare
- Include the children in the event
Within the Classroom
Personal relationships

- Build and maintain trust
- Focus on the relationship with each individual student
- Warmth, friendliness, expressions of affection
- Giving attention to each individual learner (e.g., handing papers to each individual rather than passing them down the row)
Peer-oriented Learners

- Learning style – talking, discussion, and interaction
- Cooperation vs. competition
- Hispanic children are peer-oriented when seeking assistance

Instructional Strategies

- Cooperative learning groups
- Greenwood’s Reciprocal Peer Tutoring
Parental Involvement

- Include family members in homework assignments
- Invite parents to read-alouds in their native language
- Invite parents to celebrations, holidays, parties etc.
Conclusion
Bridging Cultures

Students’ Social and Cultural Literacy

School Culture
• Sensitive planning
• Cultural understanding
• Community outreach
• Parental involvement
• Appropriate pedagogy
Considerations

• Even though Hispanics share the same language, their cultures may vary considerably

• Recognize the limitations of research
What Have We Learned?

• I can name at least two socializing agents in the Hispanic culture
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Contact Information:

Iva Palmer
Pepperell Elementary School
Floyd County
ipalmer@floydboe.net
References


