

Homework 3.1. Intercultural Parenting Questions

Read the list of intercultural parenting questions below and mark down the ones that are relevant to you.

After finishing, **share your thoughts with your partner.**

1. What is childbirth like in your culture? Are there some special traditions? Who participate to the delivery (doctor/midwife, father of the baby, relatives etc.) in your culture? What do you know about childbirth in Finland? How does the delivery in your culture differ from the Finnish way?
2. What religion/belief system/world view/ideology and what language should be taught?
3. Should family celebrations reflect both cultures and both religions (as a means of keeping your child connected) or should the host country (the country you live in) win out?
4. What kind of traditions are there in your culture which you would like to adopt in your family life? This question may concern baptizing, boy's circumcision, celebrating Christmas etc.
5. Should your child be raised monocultural or bicultural, monolingual or bilingual?
6. If you choose to raise your child bilingual, how will you support her/his language development?
7. What kind of attitudes do your parents and other relatives have towards bilingualism?
8. Are you prepared for the fact that your child may be a blend of your ethnicities and may not look like either of you (this question is especially for couples who have different ethnic backgrounds)?
9. How will you deal with ignorance, prejudice or racism should your child ever experience it?
10. Are your own parents prepared that your child might not look and be completely different from "their side"?
11. What name will you give to your child? Should it be a family name, and if so, whose family?
12. Should the name be typical of one country, one religion, or should it be one which is acceptable to both?
13. How should an infant be handled? Should your baby sleep on its side or on a pile of pillows? Should the windows be kept open or should they be closed? Can the baby sleep outside? Should your baby sleep in its own room, in your room or in your bed?
14. Should your baby be bottle-fed or breast fed, and if so, for how long?
15. Should your baby's every cry be answered or should it be trained to control itself?
16. Should it be the mother or father or both who wakes up at night to feed the baby?
17. Should your baby be allowed to crawl on the floor, walk barefoot, stumble and fall, or pampered and protected from potential dangers before they present themselves?

18. Should child care be the exclusive domain of the mother, shared by both parents, or perhaps entrusted to a nanny or relatives?
19. How much and what kind of help and support do you expect from your own parents, other relatives and friends?
20. Should you spend time alone as a couple without your baby, and should you both have time alone?
21. Does the father take paternity leave from his work? What about after maternity leave? Do you think that baby should be given to the day care or taken care at home? Who will be at home with the baby?
22. How about when your child is older: should boys and girls be educated equally?
23. Should the schooling be done in one or both languages or in a third language?
24. Should your child go to school on their own or accompanied by an adult?
25. Should you as parents be actively involved in your child's school work, monitoring every step, or should your child be responsible for his or her own work and the consequences of not doing it well?
26. Does performing badly at school bring shame on the entire family or on the child alone?
27. How about discipline: should your child be punished for bad behavior, and if so, how? Is physical punishment ok or not?
28. Should your child be able to choose her/his own friends?
29. Should girls and boys be raised the same, and if not, what would you do differently and why?
30. Is world a more dangerous place for girls? Should girls be more protected than boys?
31. What kind of a relationship will you have with your child? Should you be authoritarian or permissive?
32. How will you show and how do you expect your child to show love and respect?
33. Should rules be more important than feelings?
34. How should rules be set in your family? By discussing with your child or by deciding with your partner?
35. Should your child obey the rules without questioning or should she/he be allowed to disagree with the rules?