

THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURALLY RELEVANT MEASUREMENT

EXPERTS OFFER INSIGHTS TO ADDRESS THIS CRUCIAL NEED

Earlier this year, our staff interviewed early childhood experts on the importance of culture in measurement and to seek feedback on the IMPACT Measures Tool's Cultural Relevance scoring category (one of four scoring dimensions the tool uses to assess measures.) These individuals varied in their definitions of culture and its role in measurement, but all agreed it is a critical element to address inequities in the early childhood field. To account for culture in measurement, interviewees discussed the following takeaways:

KEY TAKEAWAYS: PRIORITIZING CULTURAL RELEVANCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD MEASUREMENT

- **Defining cultural relevance** for the field of early childhood, in order for all practitioners to understand the role of measures when selecting them, when reporting and interpreting findings, and to understand the implications (particularly around cultural equity) that result from measurement practices.
- **Seeking and supporting the development of measures** for and by Black or African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander individuals and communities.
- **Understanding the purpose and cautions of Relative measures** (measures developed for a specific culture, ideally by a member within the cultural community) **and Universal measures** (measures developed and used independent of culture), and using each when appropriate.
- **Providing wraparound education** to all decision-makers at the system, program, and front line levels to inform their understanding of cultural relevance in measurement.
- **Promoting collaborations** across cultural groups in research to develop and inform the evidence base used to interpret and report data and amplify anti-racist and anti-biased research practices.

IMPACT seeks to meet these needs and provide education, training, and resources. We will continue to add measures to our tool that are intended for culturally and linguistically diverse children and families. We are thankful for the time and thoughtfulness of our interviewees, and we will continue to seek their advice in developing our resources and trainings on cultural relevance. If you are interested in learning more about the cultural relevance of the measure you are using or learning about other measures that may serve your children and families, please visit our IMPACT Measures Tool website.



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Visit our IMPACT Measures Tool® website at:
<http://ecmeasures.instituteforchildsuccess.org>