



Reflect on your own experiences with children, families, and colleagues. If you are an supervisor, administrator, or adult educator, how might you use these questions and activities to help other adults reflect on their experiences?

## Examine the environments

Early childhood environments should not only reflect the diverse cultures, languages, and family circumstances of the children in your program, but should expose children to different people in the wider community and world. Look for ways to counter, not reinforce, stereotypes as you do this.

### *Try This!*

Gather a collection of images from the web, books, magazines, and catalogs that represent a variety of people from different cultures and walks of life. With a group of colleagues, consider whether these images support or counter stereotyping, and whether or not they support positive identity development for all children. Write down your thoughts.

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Choose a couple of television programs directed at children, and watch them for a two weeks. Write your observations of how stereotyping is reinforced or countered. Make notes of what you think the messages are to children about roles and responsibilities.

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