



# Culture and Transition

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By: Chelsea Keenan





<http://jef-m.com/cartoon-car-crash/>

# IDEA Elements Clash with Some Cultural Beliefs

## Essential IDEA elements in Transition Planning

1. Prioritizes student's needs, interests and preferences.
2. Positive post-high school outcomes determined by dominant culture, IDEA emphasizes: independent living and employment.
3. Transition planning is a coordinated interagency process.
4. Movement from school to post-school activities; living independently, community participation, etc.

## Clashing Cultural Beliefs and Values

1. Prioritizes the needs of the family over the needs of the individual.
2. Family may want student to live at home and to work part time for family friend.
3. Some prefer to work within their communities and social networks or may have difficulty asking for help.
4. Some may view unmarried children living on their own as a side of dysfunction within the family.

# Tools for Getting to Know Our Students' Families

- School District Resources
  - Translation and Interpretation Services
  - Multilingual Parent Liaisons
  - Paraprofessionals
- Direct communication
  - Take home surveys
  - Technology
  - Home visits
  - Meet and Greets



<http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductDetail.aspx?Product=25500>

# Utilize School District Resources

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- Translation and Interpretation services
- Multilingual Parent Liaison
  - Meeting communication
  - Cultural questions
  - Document translation
- Paraprofessionals
  - Cultural questions
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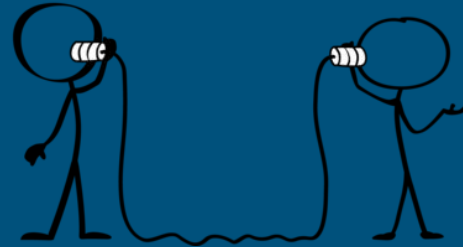




# Direct Communication: Resources and Materials

## Take Home Surveys

- Get a snapshot of a family
- Good start to the next conversation
- Learn about
  - family culture
  - Student preferences
  - Parent questions or concerns
  - Contact information



## Technology

- Talkingpoints
- Remind
- Bloomz
- ClassDojo
- LivingTree

# Home Visits and “Meet and Greets”

## Home Visits

- Not to be used with every family
- Helpful if family is reluctant to come to school
- Get first hand experience of everyday life in your student’s home
- Meet in the comfort of their home



<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/cartoon-family-in-the-living-room-gm164166022-23460399>

## “Meet and Greets”

- Not to happen only at an IEP
- To be as informal as possible, preferably separate from IEP
- Have beverages and snacks
- You get to know the family and they get to know you-builds trust

# Final Thoughts: Culture and Transition - Strategies

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- Interviews: Asking Questions to gauge families attitudes, desires, etc.
- Building Community: Get to know families early in friendly, informal settings (e.g. outside of IEPs)
- Strong partnerships with parent groups and community liaisons for translation and cultural insight
- Listening with the heart!

# Resources

Celedio, R.A. (2017, November 27). Personal Interview.

Halley, Kara F. and Trujillo, Michelle Terese (2013). "Breaking down Barriers: Successful Transition Planning for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Students," *Journal of Educational Research and Innovation: Vol. 2: No. 1, Article 1*

Lo, Lusa (2110), "Demystifying the IEP process for Diverse Parents of Children with Disabilities," *Teaching Exceptional Children: Vol. 44: No. 3, pp. 14-20*

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<http://www.sfusd.edu/en/employment/certificated-careers/teaching-careers/why-teach-with-sfusd/our-district-snapshot.html>

Lamorey, Suzanne, Teaching Exceptional Children; Reston Vol. 34, Iss. 5 (May/June 2002): 67-71

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Cynthia Franklin, Mary Beth Harris and Paula Allen-Meares. The School Services Sourcebook, Second Edition: A Guide for School-Based Professionals. 2 Ed. Oxford University Press, 2014

Henderson, Anne T. Beyond the Bake Sale: the Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships. New York, New York : New Press, 2007.

George Washington High School Moderate-severe Education Specialist, Elise Schaffer's Parent Questionnaire

Linda Levine, San Jose State University Lecturer Health Science and Recreation, Cultural Interview Questions.

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<https://www.remind.com>

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<https://www.classdojo.com>

<https://www.bloomz.net>

# Resources #2

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Lamorey, Suzanne (2002). "The Effects of Culture on Special Education Services", Teaching Exceptional Children: May/June 2002.

Silverstein, Shell. The Giving Tree, Moshav Ben Shemen, Israel: Modan Publishing House, Ltd. 1964.

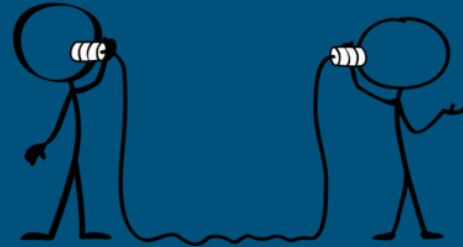
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