

Three sources of diversity in the classroom are cultural diversity, language, and exceptionalities. “Cultural diversity is reflected in the wide variety of values, beliefs, attitudes, and rules that define regional, ethnic, religious, or other cultures” (Burden, 2016). Different languages in the classroom can be a source of diversity and present a problem for those students who struggle with the English language. Exceptionalities in the classroom play a major role in understanding how to serve diverse students well; there will be students of all different academic levels in a single class, so it is important to understand where each student falls academically and how to help them succeed where they are.

One strategy to encourage appropriate behavior in a diverse classroom is to foster a positive learning environment that respects and cares for everyone. Another strategy to encourage appropriate behavior in a diverse group is to educate oneself and others about sources of diversity; being more understanding of who people are and where they come from can lend to managing a classroom well. A final strategy to encourage appropriate behavior is to adjust instruction to meet different students' needs based on their academic level. If something is too easy or too hard, a student may act out due to boredom or frustration.

Getting to know students greatly increases one's effectiveness in working in a diverse classroom. “With a better understanding of their students, teachers can be more effective in their selection of instructional strategies, their adjustments for individual differences, and their interactions with the students and their families” (Burden, 2016). Students will also be more willing to work hard and try their best if they feel known, cared for, and seen by their teacher; it

is much harder for students to want to put in the effort if they feel like the one teaching them has no understanding of why they are who they are.

Just as teachers are called to meet students where they are, Jesus met people where they were. Matthew 9:10-13 says “While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners””
(*Bible Gateway passage: Matthew 9:10-13 - New International Version*, n.d.).

Bible Gateway passage: Matthew 9:10-13 - New International Version. (n.d.-b).

Bible Gateway. Retrieved October 3, 2023, from

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+9%3A10-13&version=NIV>

Burden, P. (2016). *Classroom management: Creating a successful K-12 learning community 6e epub: Creating a successful K-12 learning community* (6th ed.). Wiley.

