

14 Ways to Better Cross-Cultural Communications

As neighborhoods become more diverse, we benefit by developing better cross-cultural communication skills.

Develop self awareness by becoming aware of your own assumptions and preconceptions about other cultures.

Decide consciously not to act on stereotypes and assumptions.

Listen with Respect.

Increase culture-specific awareness.

Treat each person uniquely.

Seek out information.

Tolerate ambiguity, especially in situations which might not be as clear cut as you'd like them to be.

Establish trust and show concern and empathy.

Show sensitivity when people need to "save face".

Develop a sense of humor and patience.

Be aware of nonverbal messages.

Listen for hidden meanings.

Avoid language with questionable connotations that might confuse a person from another culture.

Walk in the other person's shoes.