

JD Andrews Institute Presents
'Words of Wisdom' with Carol Brunson Day
On Curiosity



Keystone Messages

- ❖ Every family comes from a cultural background and those families bring a certain set of values and beliefs. It's our job to discover what those are and try to use them in ways that cement the bonds between families and schools and that benefit their children's growth and development.
- ❖ Be curious about what parents want to accomplish with their children, about their underlying values and beliefs. Engage your sense of wonder about things you need to know more about.
- ❖ We have cultural values around food and nutrition. Different cultural groups have different beliefs about what it means to be healthy. Different cultural groups have different health messages and messengers. Families look to different places to learn things about how to be healthy.
- ❖ Underlying values and beliefs are very powerful influences on how people behave. Much about culture is implicit in how we behave. We act according to those rules even though we can't really describe them.
- ❖ Culture is a collection of shared values and beliefs, but not everybody shares those values and beliefs in the same way. It can be well learned by some and not so well learned by others.
- ❖ Avoiding the harm that stereotypes can cause is a matter of how you understand culture and how you use the information. Use it as a guide for your curiosity to explore possibilities, not to make assumptions about people or to make judgments about people.
- ❖ When you focus on similarities, you run the risk of conveying to parents that you think something is wrong with their differences. Cultural differences are not divisive. It's our negative responses to cultural difference that divides us and poses the developmental threat to children and poses a threat to family engagement.
- ❖ Let families know that we're willing to change our program, because it empowers them to participate, to form closer bonds with us.