

# Classroom Community culture

# Strengthening Home School Connections

# Objectives

Brainstorm five strategies to strengthen the home-school connection for the shared benefit of the child

Gain an understanding of the home-school connection and explore its benefits for students, families, and educators."

Recognize and reflect on the roles of expert, children, and professionals in the home-school connection, the impact each has, and how they collaborate and relate to one another





# INTRODUCTION

- 24 Years working in Early childhood education
- 14 years in the classroom
- 2 years instructional coach



# Think. Pair. Share.

What did you wish your teachers knew about you when you were young?



# What is Culture?

For me, culture is...

# What is Culture?

- Culture is a broad concept that refers to the customs, values, beliefs, and practices of a group of people. It incorporates family roles, rituals, communication styles, emotional expression, social interactions, and learned behavior. Culture also refers to a shared way of life that includes social norms, rules, beliefs, and values that are transmitted across generations (Hill, McBride-Murry, and Anderson 2005, 23).

# Funds of knowledge

- Home language
- Family values and traditions
- Caregiving
- Friends and family
- Family outings
- Household chores

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Educational activities

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Favorite TV shows

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Family occupations

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Scientific knowledge

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Other aspects of family life, such as  
favorite foods and playthings

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# Funds of Knowledge



# What the expert can provide

- The child's sleep habits or routines
- Dietary preferences, restrictions, or allergies
- Favorite character/or stories
- Medical history or health considerations
- Developmental milestones and physical abilities
- Activities the child enjoys most
- How the child prefers to be comforted and held



## What the child can provide:

- How they like to play
- What they're interested in
- Thing they don't enjoy
- Signs that they're tired
- How they express hunger
- Ways they show affection
- People they feel most comfortable with
- held





# What the professional can provide

- **What the professional can provide:**
- Information on developmental milestones
- Insights into each child's learning style
- Regular updates on the child's day
- Personalized learning strategies
- Support for social and emotional development
- A clear overview of the daily routine
- Opportunities for collaborative decision- making





# Partnership

The goal of the experts (parents) and professional (teachers) is to work and communicate as partners for the objective benefit of the child.

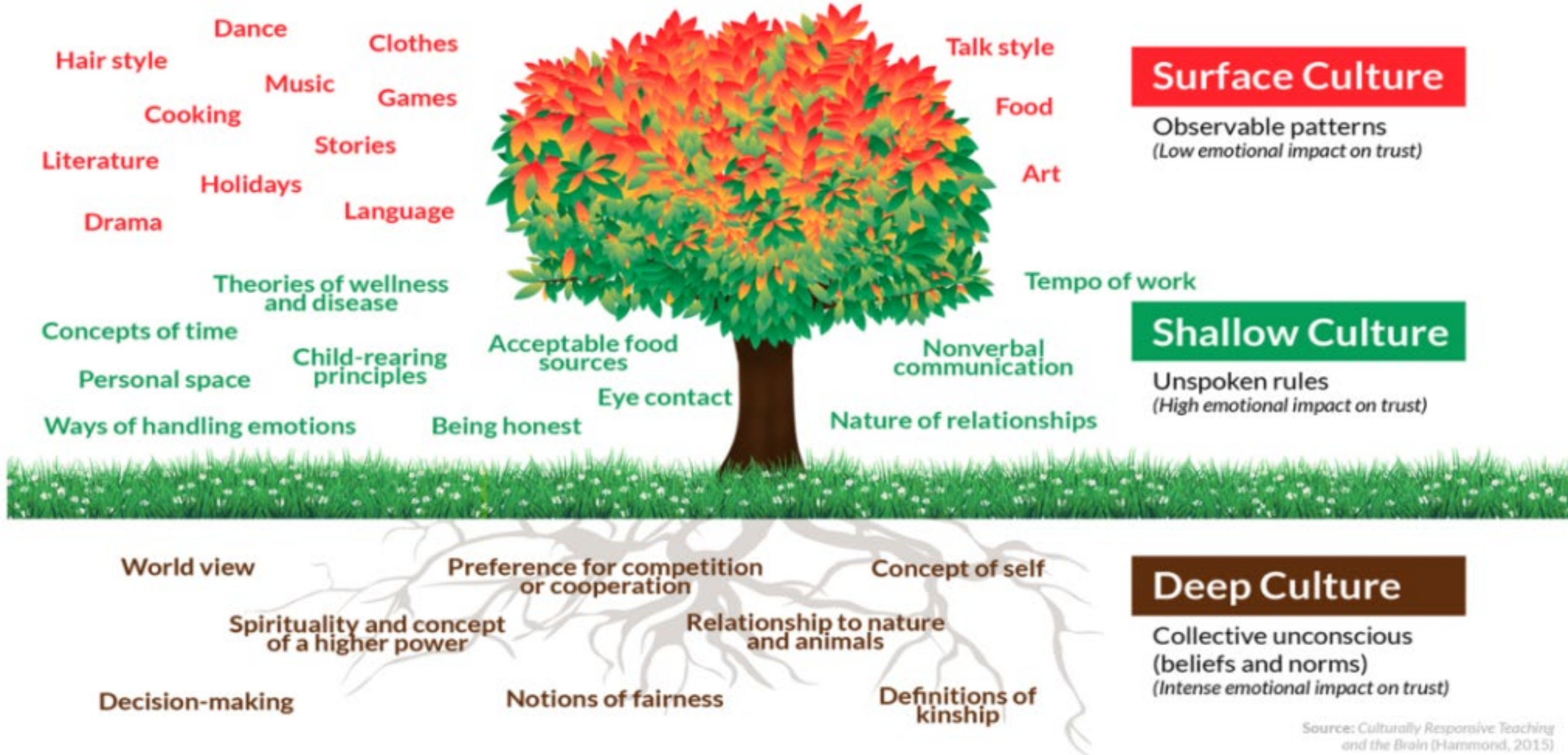
What does this look like?

How can we develop this partnership?

How can we strengthen this partnership?



# The Culture Tree



— “ —

# BELONGING

is when I walk into a room  
and I don't need armour.

— **Shannon Cohen** —

Founder of the Rockstar Women's Movement





We must engage in the process of constant reflection, of constant learning, to ensure that every family we serve feels seen, heard, and valued for being exactly as they are.

All families deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential.



# Strategies for Developing a strong Home school connection.

- Take the time to build meaningful relationships with your students and their families or primary caregivers.
- Recognize and incorporate the lived experiences of children and their families into your teaching practice.
- Foster a supportive and inclusive classroom environment where everyone feels valued and involved.
- Maintain high expectations for all students, while actively partnering with families and caregivers in the learning journey.
- Reflect on your own cultural background and understand how it influences your teaching and interactions with families.



Thank You!