

# GLOBAL AWARENESS



## What is Global Awareness?

The goal of Global Awareness is to create global citizens who understand the interconnected world around them.

## Why is Global Awareness important?

Global competence is needed for children to become empathetic, engaged, and effective citizens.

## Strategies for Teaching and Implementing Global Awareness

Strategies should be embedded into daily routines, conversations, attitudes, and activities.

## Global Awareness in Action

Examples from the classroom

## Coaching Corner

Reflective questions to support the implementation of Global Awareness concepts.



# What is Global Awareness?

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF GLOBAL CITIZENS:



- Flexible and open to other people's cultures.
- Recognize and respect that there can be more than one way to do something.
- Have an attitude that is open-minded, embraces diversity, is respectful and empathetic, and understands how one's culture and/or experiences shape the way that they think and feel.
- Seek knowledge to understand how global issues affect us all locally and globally (recycling programs, animal and homeless shelters, culture in our area, how weather impacts us and others around the globe, etc.).
- Exhibit skills and abilities necessary to communicate and collaborate with all people across cultural and language barriers.
- Think critically and solve problems.
- Understand their civic duties and are socially responsible.

Global Awareness is not the same as Multicultural Education. Multicultural Education tends to emphasize the differences across cultures and is often treated as a special addition to a curriculum, whereas Global Awareness is something that should be integrated into our daily lives.

# Why is Global Awareness important?

Global competence is needed for children to become empathetic, engaged, and effective citizens.

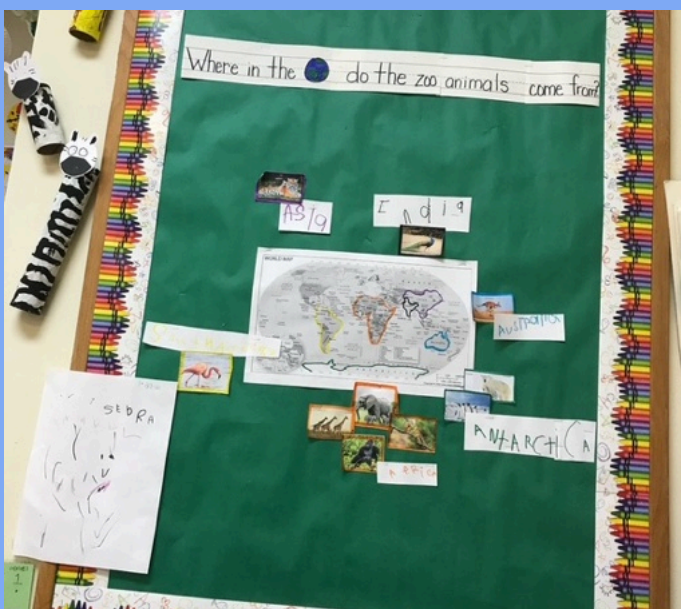
- **Fosters Empathy and Understanding:** Teaching young children about different cultures, languages, and global issues helps them develop empathy. It encourages them to understand that people may have different backgrounds, traditions, and perspectives. This awareness lays the foundation for kindness and tolerance, essential values as they grow.
- **Expands Worldviews:** At an early age, children are still forming their sense of the world around them. Introducing them to global concepts like diversity, geography, or international celebrations, broadens their perspective and sparks curiosity about people and places beyond their immediate surroundings. This helps them become open-minded and more accepting of differences.
- **Promotes Critical Thinking:** Pre-K is a time when children are learning to think critically. By introducing concepts related to the environment, social justice, or other global issues, children can start learning how to think about solutions, fairness, and how their actions impact others.
- **Builds Language Skills:** Learning about other languages or cultures can increase linguistic awareness. Children can start picking up words from different languages or get familiar with global stories and traditions, which boosts both their cognitive and language development.



# Strategies for Teaching and Implementing Global Awareness

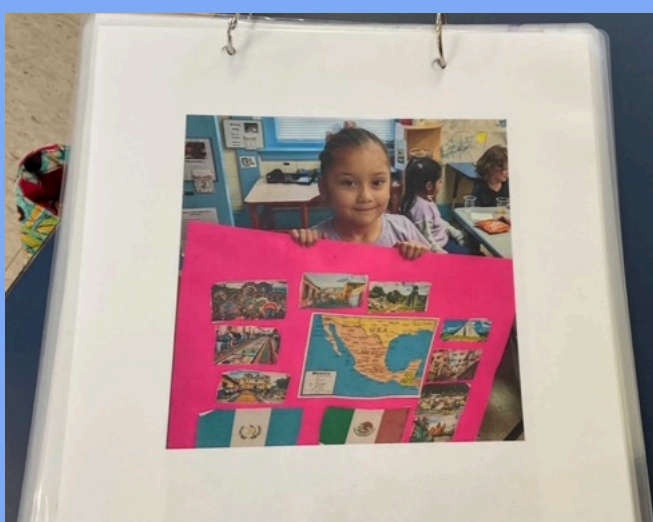
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Teach children how sports are played differently across the world and how they may have different names (e.g., soccer/football).



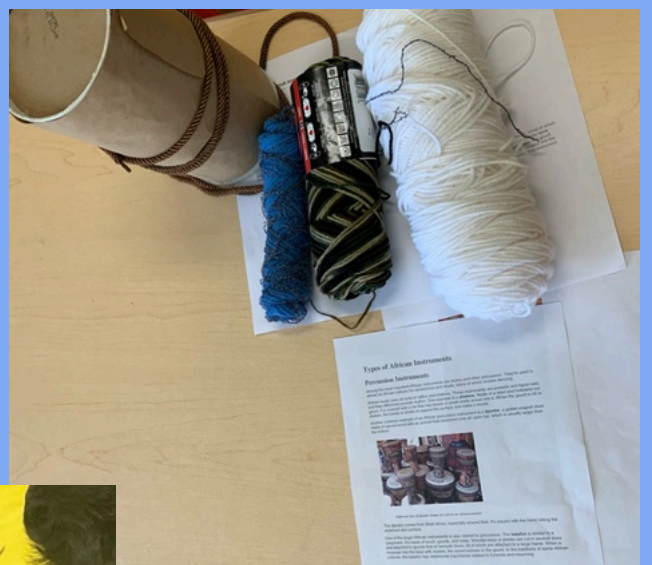
Integrate global awareness into the curriculum. Consider the topic you are studying and intentionally plan learning experiences around it.

If allowed, consider having potlucks and festivals that teach children about food from other countries. Start with the children and families in your classroom and school. What dishes are special? Why? What celebrations are important?



Ask families and children to share about their vacations and travel. Talk to children about the places you have been. Share pictures and artifacts.

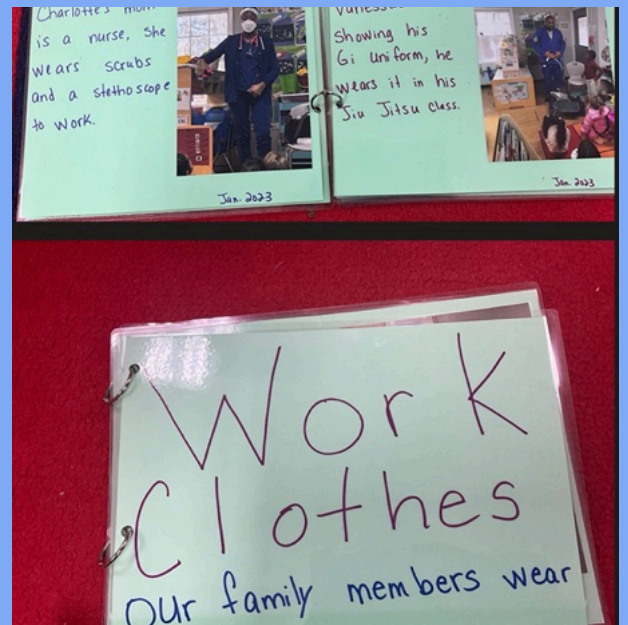
Add books and music from around the globe to your classroom. Attend a band performance or play. Invite local high-school students to perform and talk about their instruments.



Implement a recycled materials bin and talk with children about how they can make new artwork or structures out of old materials.

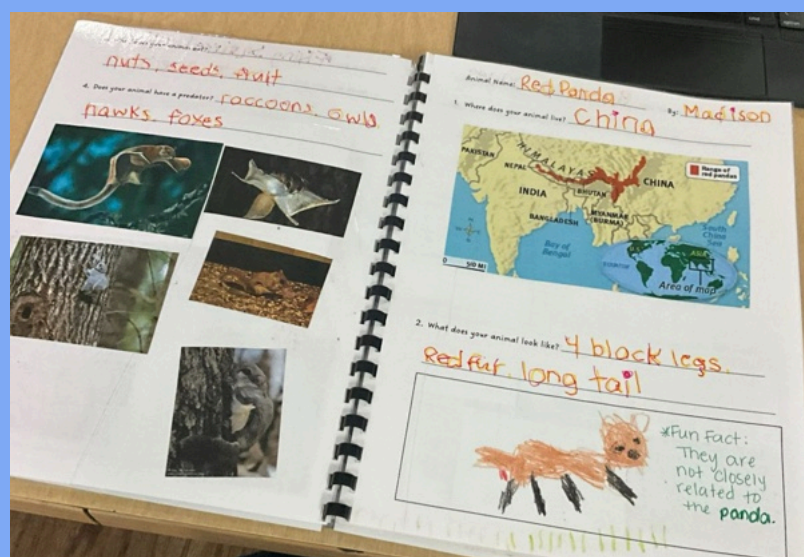
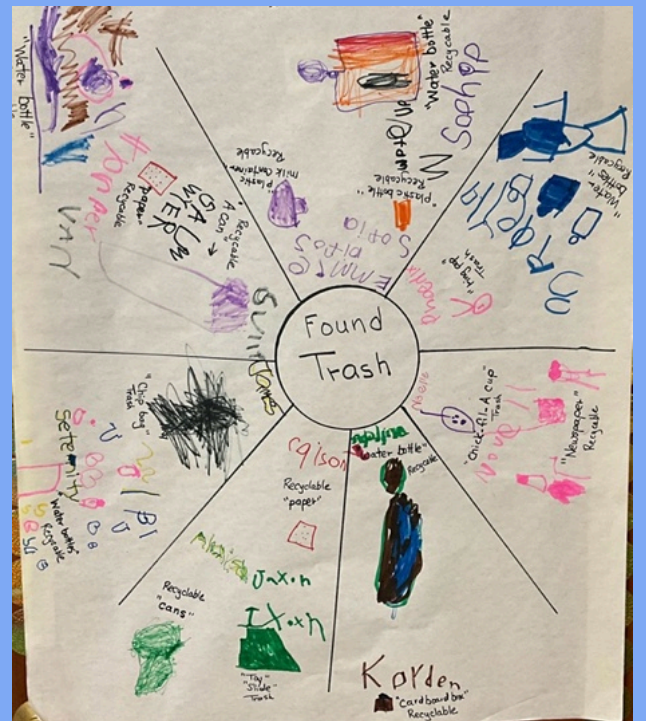
# Strategies for Teaching and Implementing Global Awareness

Invite families and community partners to visit the classroom and share their experiences. For example, have families share about their careers by coming into classroom, send in pictures or videos, or hosting Zoom meetings with families while they are at work. You could also invite a local arborist to share what they do, or ask a local gardening group to plant a garden with your class.



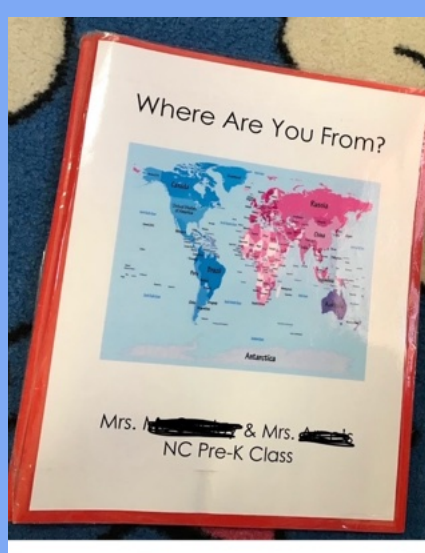
Learn the languages of the children in your classroom. Use these languages to label items, learn words and phrases, read books, and sing songs.

Plan experiences that include the local community. Consider creating meaningful opportunities for community engagement by implementing service-learning projects such organizing neighborhood clean-ups, visiting nursing homes, coordinating canned food drives for local shelters, and other initiatives that promote social responsibility.



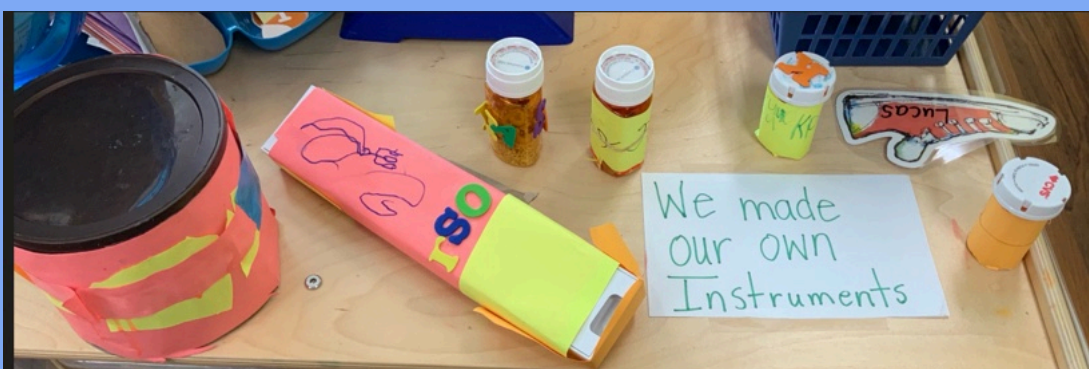
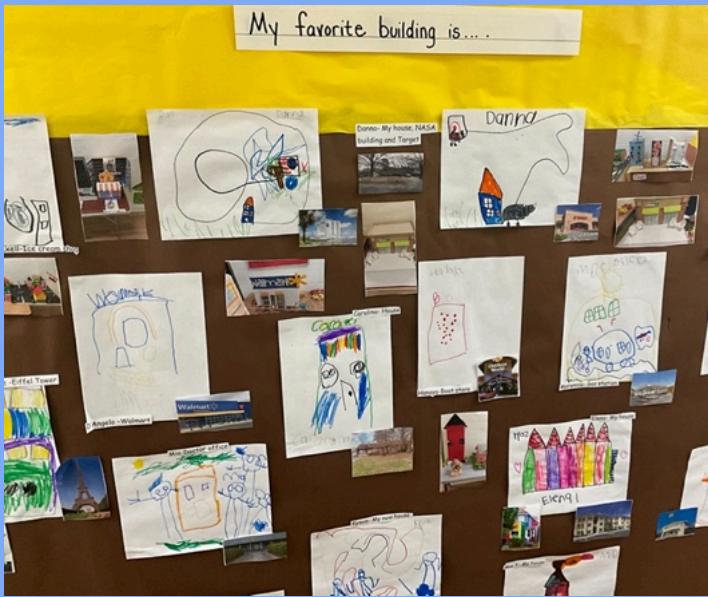
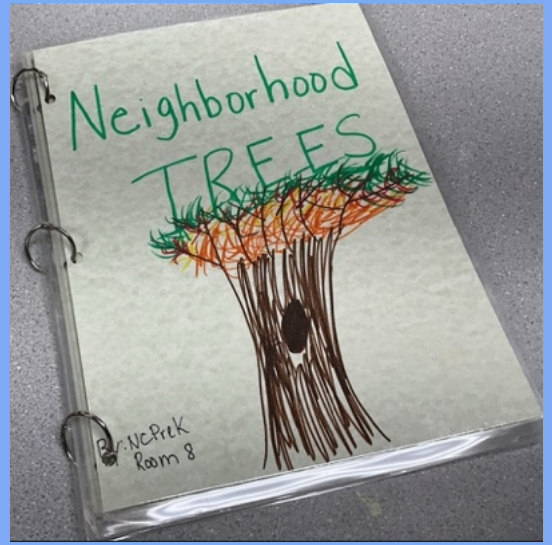
Use technology to connect children to their community and the world around them. Take virtual field trips and Zoom with other classrooms. Use technology to research topics of interest with the children.

Help children understand that there are people in other places around the country and the world who speak different languages, have different geographies, climates, foods, flags, music, sports and other cultural traditions.



# Global Awareness in Action

## Examples from the classroom



# Coaching Corner

**Reflective questions to support the implementation of Global Awareness concepts.**

- What role do global themes, such as nature conservation, kindness, or sustainability, play in your classroom discussions and activities?
- How do you encourage curiosity and openness about the world beyond your classroom or community? How can you and your children learn about your community? How can you become involved with your community?
- What strategies do you use to ensure all children feel that their cultures and backgrounds are valued in the classroom?
- What has your personal journey been in becoming more globally aware as an educator?
- How can you encourage families to share their own cultural traditions, stories, or global experiences with the class?
- How do you incorporate global perspectives into your daily lessons or activities?
- How can you utilize technology to bring the outside world into your classroom?
- In what ways can you make the classroom environment more reflective of diverse cultures and countries?
- What challenges do you face in teaching global awareness at such a young age, and how do you overcome them?

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