

Differing cultural perspectives

This table shows how an issue may be viewed differently by people of different cultures.

<i>Cultural belief</i>	<i>Opposing cultural belief</i>
Children should not make eye contact with adults because it is disrespectful.	Children should look adults in the eye to show that they are paying attention or telling the truth.
Obedience to adults is not important; obedience to people who are important in your life is.	Children must respect their elders and do as they are told without questioning.
Teasing and threatening is useful in managing a child's behaviour (for instance, 'If you eat that, your teeth will fall out').	Children should be independent and make their own decisions about their needs, rather than following what others do.
Feelings should not be expressed or discussed.	Feelings should be expressed and learnt about.
It is okay to model a negative expression of feelings.	It is better to do nothing than to make a mistake.
Male children should do different activities to female children.	Male and female adults and children are equal and should be treated the same.

Remember, Australian society is formed from many cultures and social groups. There will be diversity in how cultural factors influence the behaviour of children.

Cultural differences are not solely determined by a family's ethnic or religious backgrounds. Each family also has its own culture and this is represented by the following within the family unit:

- Expectations of behaviour
- Responses to behaviour
- Forms of communication
- Styles of discipline
- Norms of behaviour
- Social functioning.