

Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters



Module 4

Activity 3: Skills – Solution

Match the five intercultural competences with the AIE excerpts:

- a) Skills of discovery and interaction
- b) Skills of interpreting and relating
- c) Communicative awareness
- d) Behavioural flexibility
- e) Critical cultural awareness

AIE excerpt 1

For me it wasn't my first time giving home lessons, so I knew to be polite and courteous. I knew to maybe hold back a little until I could see what type of family they were. Some families don't like mixing with the teachers. So I tried to act professional. There were a few times when I could not spend all day with them but I would find it hard to leave or say no because they were almost too nice.

Competence: Behavioural flexibility

AIE excerpt 2

I was a little bit careful about how I talked to her because I didn't want to insult her in any way. We were both speaking German, so we didn't have to simplify, but in this situation she knew more about the subject than me, so there were things that were new to me and I asked questions and listened more. Knowing there are differences helped me talk to my friend about her religion in a way that was ok for both of us.

Competence: Communicative awareness

AIE excerpt 3

I think it's normal to be interested in other people's religions. I have a friend who's Turkish and we can talk about her religion, too, just like we can talk about mine. I go to a Catholic school but I am not a Catholic and it's normal for me that there are nuns there. If I went to another country where people might be different I would be interested in them, too.

Competence: Skills of discovery and interaction

AIE excerpt 4

The father in this family seemed to be quite authoritarian and this is a relationship I have seen in other countries too but do not feel comfortable with. My own approach to being a father and grandfather is to attempt to deliberately undermine the authority figure, e.g. by my children and grandchildren using my first name

Competence: Critical cultural awareness

AIE excerpt 5

I compared this new situation with the medical practice in my country. Here you rarely or never get the feeling the doctor worries about you and your personal state. Doctors are mostly tensed. On the other hand, the Italian doctor I got to know seemed to be relaxed and just took the time she needed. It is not all about the money – it's about the willingness to really help people.

Competence: Skills of interpreting and relating