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[My experience of personal diversity](#) - Walker, Kurt (Jul 31, 2009 2:20 PM)

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Being a male in early childhood I have been met by families, workplaces and staff that have been taken back and at times, or prejudice regarding my sex. Sometimes it makes me doubt myself and think maybe I have picked the wrong job. Then thankfully for the majority I'm met with lot's of positive support and the diversity of having a male early childhood worker in the centre was a blessed thing. Staff comment that having a male perspective helps them see outside the box and fathers feel more relaxed and willing to get involved. The same outcome is for those who are from a different cultural background. I feel that people are often wary of what's different and sometimes bring fear of what might happen, etc. People are unsure of the unknown.

[Re: My experience of personal diversity](#) - Phoenix, Rachael (Jul 31, 2009 5:30 PM)

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Keep up the confidence. I have a young man who volunteers at my centre weekly, he is great with the children and the family are very enthusiastic toward him. I can't wait until he turns 18 so that i can offer him a position in our team. I have also found that people are bias toward people from different cultures. The area in which i work are people comprising of mostly anglo-saxon backgrounds, when we employed two multicultural staff we were faced with mixed emotions from families. However, whilst perservering and inviting change and diversity great things can happen, and do happen.

[Re: My experience of personal diversity](#) - Ingate, Lynn (Jul 31, 2009 9:10 PM)

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Hi Kurt,

I don't think you have chosen the wrong job. Having a male on staff does put a whole new perspective on early childhood. Good on you for staying in the early childhood sector, when you have had some diversity issues.

LynnOriginal Message:
From Walker, Kurt (Jul 31, 2009 2:20 PM)
Subject My experience of personal diversity

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[Re: My experience of personal diversity](#) - Flynn, Sharyn (Jul 31, 2009 9:51 PM)

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[Re: My experience of personal diversity](#) - Flynn, Sharyn (Jul 31, 2009 10:44 PM)

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oops sorry I was interrupted by one of my children (a 20 year old one) and lost where I was..

I really admire people like you Kurt. Sometimes it is so hard when you feel the odd one out, but I can assure you perserverance and dedication to something you love will win in the end. I have worked with some fantastic guys and I know that males are the favourite with the kids. So what do we have to do to get some parents to realise this. Children are so used to women being in the care giving role and I really feel more males should be there to model to children (and their parents) that it is OK to be male AND be able to care and have fun with children, what is so wrong with that?

I have dealt with peoples prejudice and I really feel it is about "them" not being educated in the area they fear or have been told " that is not right".. To have confidence in who you are and in what you do and believe in is the most important characteristic in being human.

I have a brother who has Down Syndrome and has schizophrenia, and I have aboriginal heritage. I have experienced domestice violence, been a single parent, remarried and have a blended family, AND I am so happy. I also have close relatives that are gay and have HIV, have downsndrome, microcephalus and autism, and are from other cultures and I love them all for who they are. I have never once felt embarrassed to have them in my life and I thank my parents (and my family) for providing a childhood that was welcoming to all.

[Re: My experience of personal diversity](#) - Barker, Hazel (Aug 1, 2009)

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