

Exploring world views

“The concept of worldview refers to a mental framework within which individuals and groups interpret the nature of reality, the nature and purpose of human life, and the laws governing human relationships; the overall perspective from which ones sees and interprets the world; a collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group; a dynamic, reflexive lens through which human beings construct interpret and interact with all aspects of their reality. Worldviews are shaped by our life experiences, and at the same time they reshape our approach to life.” (Education for Peace Curriculum Manual)

World view shapes the way an individual or group perceives itself, others and the world around them, and how she/he defines the principles by which relationships between the self and the world are to be conducted.

A world view is a way of thinking about truth and reality. It sums up the basic conclusions about life and meaning that a person figures out and lives by, either consciously or unconsciously. It includes the rules for human relationships such as trust and social concern, distribution of power and social justice are elements of a cultures fabric into which a child is born. A child learns what is socially expected and accepted by interacting with others.

Our worldview changes from childhood through adolescence to adulthood and the world worldview of people shapes the type of communities we create.

Every day we interact with and work with other educators and families whose world view may differ greatly from ours

Consider how does your world view impact on your interactions with children and families?

Everyone has a worldview: Each person, community, and group, has a worldview shaped by culture, education, family, life experiences, beliefs, media etc. Our world view is our way of being, thinking, relating, and seeing.

World views influence all decisions and actions: Worldviews influence how people view themselves, the kind of relationships they have with others, what they consider the purpose of life to be and what types of communication they create.

The following table presents different world views and provides space for you to consider yours.

	Traditional Aboriginal	Christian	Modern	Yours
Why do we exist/where did we come from?	Dreaming strong spiritual beliefs	Creationism. God created the universe, the world and people, though God himself is beyond space and time	Scientific beliefs about creation, matter and energy	
Where are we going/ ultimate purpose of life?	To live as one with the world, people are custodians of the earth if we hurt it we hurt ourselves, interdependence of all life	God has given us intelligence which he expects us to use in understanding the universe and our knowledge of him	To succeed, to gain, to improve, to progress, to win, to inquire, to learn. The world progresses and things change. Death ends life	
What for/values/rules /the way society operates/mode of decision making?	Oral culture, knowledge is passed through stories and ceremony Resources are shared amongst everyone in the group	The bible provides a guide for how we should live our life. There are absolute moral truths.	Rational and scientific, things are measured, counted, analysed. Right and wrong are what we decide for ourselves either individually or in groups	
How we should act/relationships with others?	Strong kinship network evident in every aspect of human interaction, physical, mental, and spiritual. Each person has particular responsibilities and obligations to the group Non hierarchical	The church through the pastor or minister provides guidance to the family and community on relationships	Hierarchical, society emphasizes the achievements of individuals which creates status and power, ownership, property including land is bought and sold. People have roles and functions, people do things for employment	
Knowledge/what we believe is true and what is false/planning for living?	The Dreaming, Holistic and relational, Holistic view of health and wellbeing	God and his plan have been revealed through his actions in history	Knowledge is the result of enquiry Aspects of health and well being are viewed separately, such as environmental health and social wellbeing	

Reference: <http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/WORLVIEW.html>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worldview>;