

Understanding, Caring & Resourcing TCKs

MC2



DATE: Saturday, February 16, 2019
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Understanding TCKs

- Illustration: Beads vs Playdough (Sandy Smith, MIT & Michele Phoenix)

- TCK Definition (Dave Pollock & Ruth E Van Reken)

- Third Culture Shared Experience
 - TCKs grow up in a cross-cultural setting
 - TCKs grow up moving around
- Swirly (Sara Saunders)
 - Two Realities for TCKs
 1. Sorting out personal and cultural identity
 2. Dealing with lots of loss
 - Two Challenges for TCKs
 1. Who am I? Where do I belong?
 2. Unresolved Grief
 - Paradox or "Pair of ducks" (Sandy Smith, MTI)
 1. "Yays" about being a TCK

 2. "Yucks" about being a TCK

Caring for TCKs

1. Why care for TCKs? (Dave Pollock)
 - Presence
 - Parents
 - Potential
2. Understanding TCKs
3. Know Resources for families/TCKs
4. Have a relationship with TCKs
 - Visit overseas
 - Get to know their story – LISTEN well
 - Get to know their world
 - Learn good questions (open-ended ones)
 - Build Trust/Be a friend
 - Be Patient, Don't be offended
 - Give Permission (Michele Phoenix)
 - To be Kids
 - To fail
 - To grieve - validate
 - To dissent
 - To doubt
 - Redefine significance
 - Be a mentor or help them find a mentor
 - Determine skills, strengths
 - Give guidance and wisdom in life decisions
 - Foster a healthy and genuine faith

5. Serve TCKs and their families

- Practically
 - Have them over for dinner, spring break, Christmas . . .
 - Help them get a driver's license
 - Find a good doctor/navigate the health care system
 - Teach "American sports" if they are interested
 - Take them shopping
 - Help with job hunting
 - A place to store things
- Financially
 - Become a partner in the ministry
 - Pay for Counseling (if needed)
 - Provide a trip to back home
 - Pay for a summer Transition Seminar

6. Pray for TCKs (iChed bookmark)

- Cross-Cultural adjustment
- Education
- Family & Ministry
- Finances
- Physical Health & Safety
- Re-entry
- Spiritual Journey
- Transitions/Grief & loss

Resources (see handout)

- Barnabas
- Word of God
- Books about MKs
- Books for MKs
- Movies
- Training/Debriefing Programs
- Activity/Workbooks
- Websites/Blogs
- Other