

BaFa BaFa Enhancing Cultural Diversity

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Using the funds from the Mini Grant, I purchased one BaFa BaFa program for adults and two RaFa RaFa programs for youth. These group gaming activities are simulations to help participants understand cultures and cultural assimilation.



I presented BaFa BaFa at the American Association of Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Regional conference. Twenty participants at the conference went through the simulation. In a debriefing that we conducted, I had several of the participants' mention the simulation months later - that they were still thinking about it. One participant told me she now tries to work with the Spanish-speaking population with more tolerance. Prior to the simulation she was frustrated and had little patience with this population. A while later, Linda Skogrand and I presented a RaFa RaFa cultural diversity simulation at the fall 2005 FCS in-service. We educators were divided into two cultures each sent visitors into the other cultures during the simulation. In the debriefing individuals shared how they felt entering into another culture.

In order for the simulation to be effective participants must “buy into the gaming process”. I had several agents talk to me about their experiences and they indicated how powerful the simulations were in helping them to understand cultural differences. I believe this same experience can be had by all who participate in this very powerful cultural simulation experience.

I am excited that Utah Extension has these cultural simulations available for check out and know that those who engage in this activity will enhance their personal perspectives on dealing effectively with other cultures.