

# Authentic intercultural practice

Between

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# Outline for Today

- Definitions
- The Cultural Iceberg – finding hidden cultural values
- Understanding cultural values – individualism and collectivism
- Group chat – what hidden values do you have?
- The role of children in culture and in Te Whāriki
- Third Spaces – what they are and how to find them
- Story as a strategy

# Ethnicity vs. Culture

## Ethnicity

- a person's *biological, geographic origins* (eg. Samoan, Chinese)
- *may* have some similar cultural values, but not necessarily

## Culture

- a person's set of rules, norms, values and sanctions
- *change* over time, and with experiences

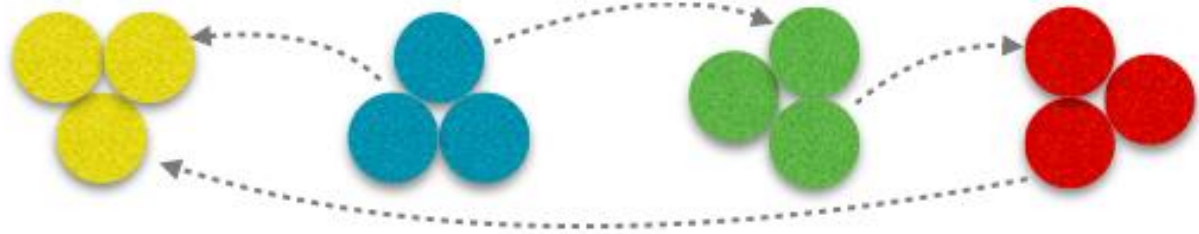
**Ethnicity ≠ Culture!**



# Words have Power

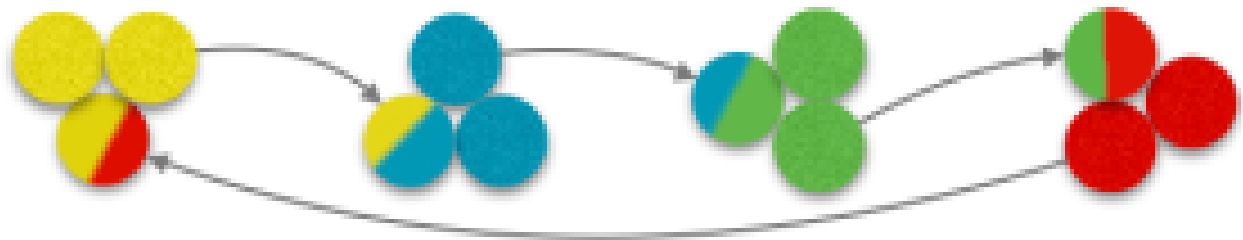
## Multiculturalism

= a society that contains several cultural or ethnic groups. People live alongside one another, but each cultural group does not necessarily have engaging interactions with each other. A focus on differences.



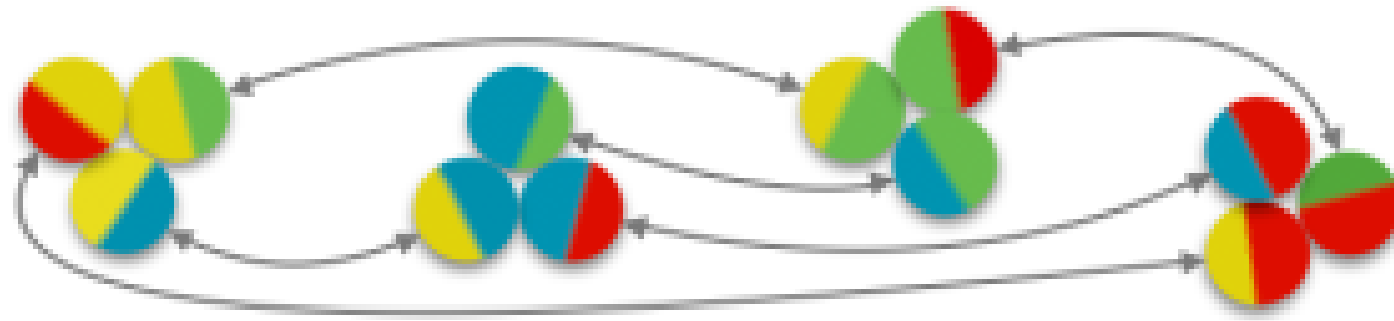
# Cross-culturalism

= deals with the comparison of different cultures. In cross-cultural communication, differences are understood and acknowledged, and can bring about *individual* change, but not *collective* transformations. In cross-cultural societies, one culture is often considered “the norm” and all other cultures are compared or contrasted to the dominant culture.



# Interculturalism (the ideal)

= describes communities in which there is a deep *understanding* and *respect* for all cultures. Intercultural communication focuses on the mutual exchange of ideas and cultural norms and the development of deep relationships. In an intercultural society, no one is left unchanged because everyone learns from one another and grows together.



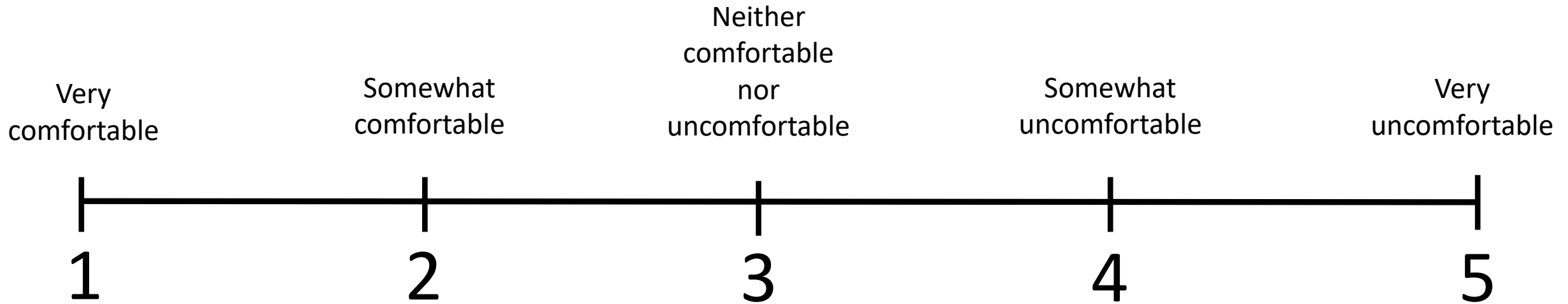
# The Cultural Iceberg

What you do  
vs.  
*Why* you do it



# A Little Group Quiz...

How comfortable do you feel about these images?



11.

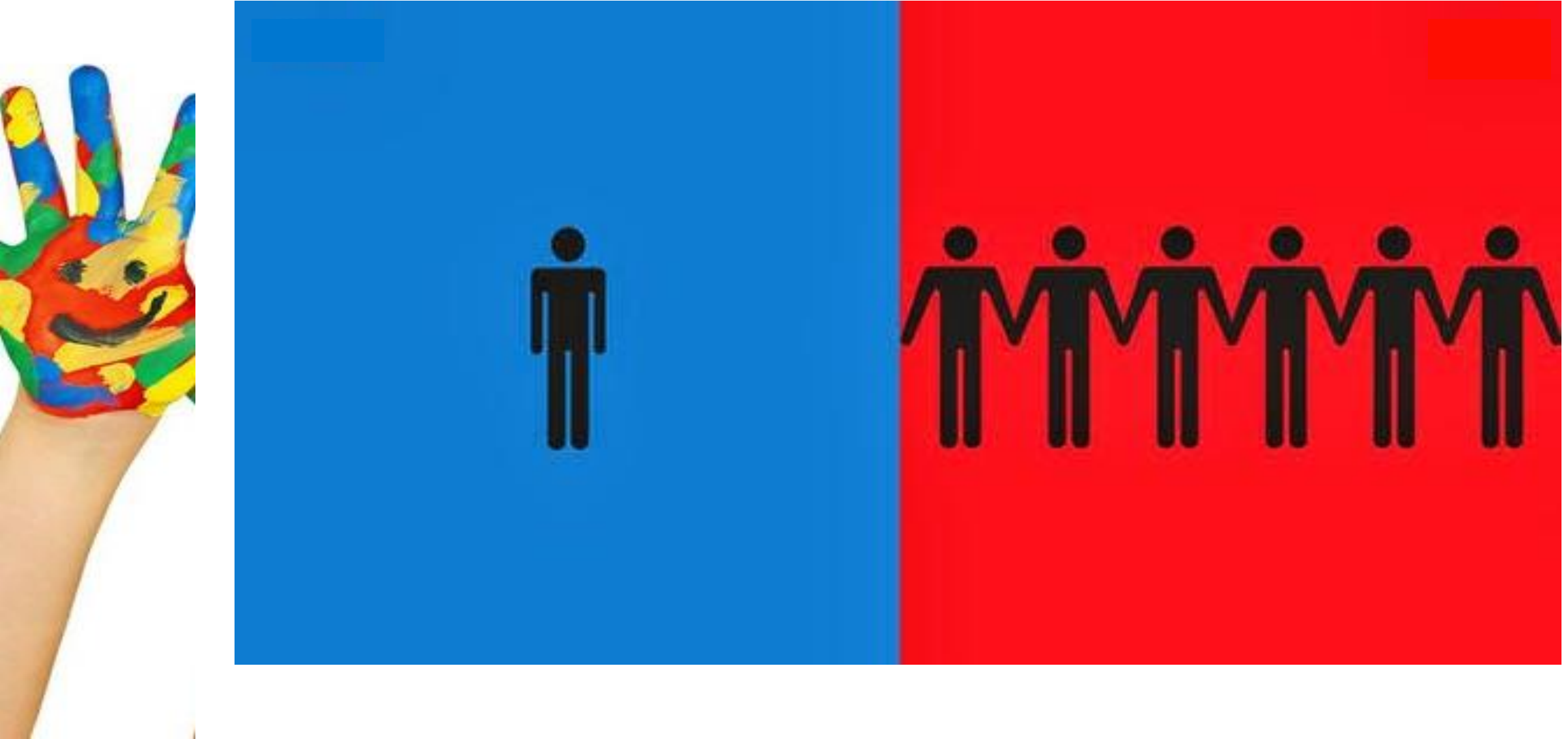




Which images made you feel the most comfortable? Why?

Which images made you feel the most uncomfortable? Why?

# Understanding Cultural Values



# Individualist

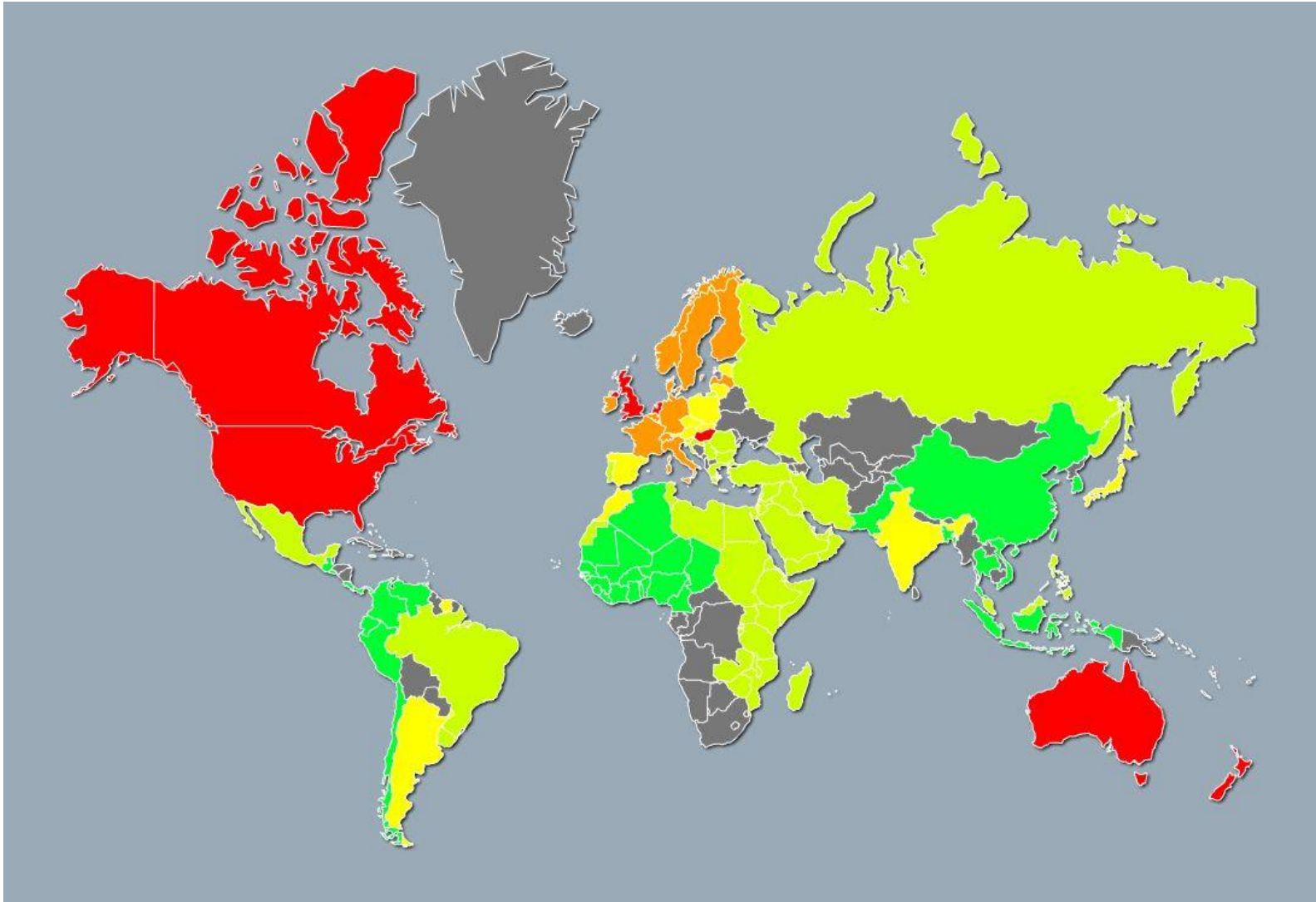
# Collectivist



- Focus on the individual
- Independence
- Individual ownership of resources
- Taking responsibility for self and immediate family only
- Right of privacy
- Speaking one's mind is healthy

- Focus on the family
- Interdependence
- Hierarchical society, respect for elders, parents and those in authority
- Resources shared with relatives
- Stress on belonging in the group
- Harmony should be maintained
- Opinions predetermined by the group/family

Over 70% of the earth's population are from  
more collectivist societies

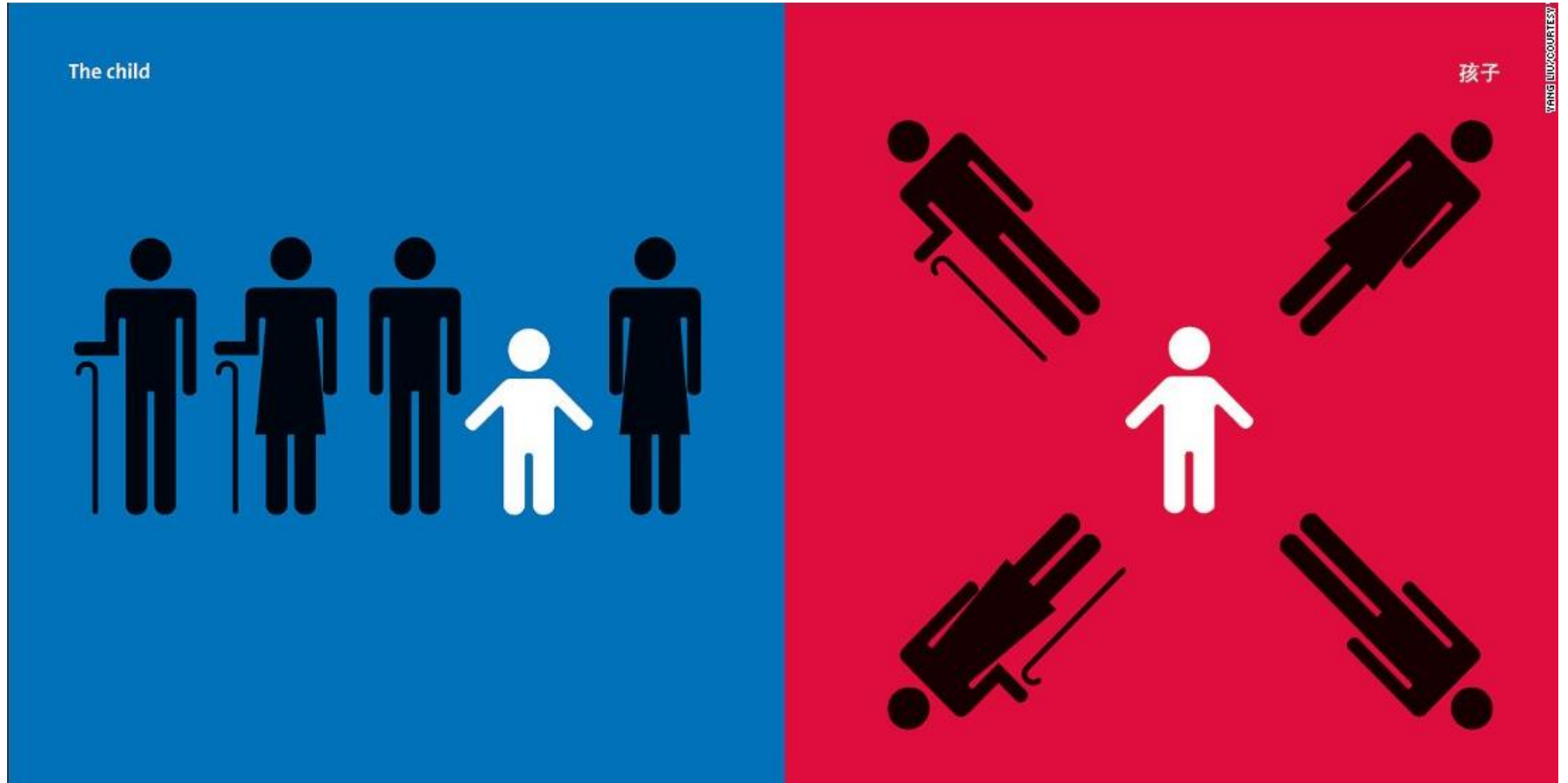


# Group Discussion

1. Where do you think you would place yourself on the individual-collective spectrum?
2. What do you think your own cultural values are? In relation to parents? Children? Teachers?
3. How have these values developed?
4. How do think your values differ from your parents or whānau? Why?



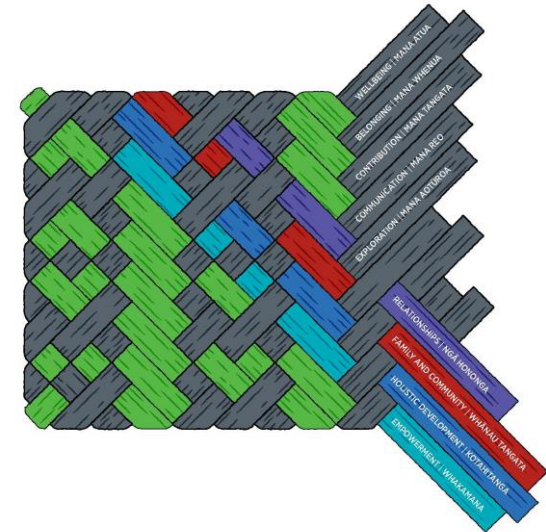
# The place of the child



# Understanding cultural values within Te Whāriki



- Has both individualistic and collectivistic orientations. (The word 'individual' and 'family' appear about the same number of times)
  - e.g. Children are affirmed as individuals vs.  
Children are encouraged to play alongside others
- However, how Te Whāriki is interpreted in practice depends upon the individual teacher's OWN cultural values & lenses



# Challenge (and joy) of working with ethnic minority families

- How move beyond cultural recognition of visible cultural artefacts, to better understand and reflect underlying values of families?
- How get to know individual family's aspirations for their child? How do they want their own family's cultural values represented in the programme vs. simply their ethnicity?
- How incorporate differing cultural perspectives into the programme?



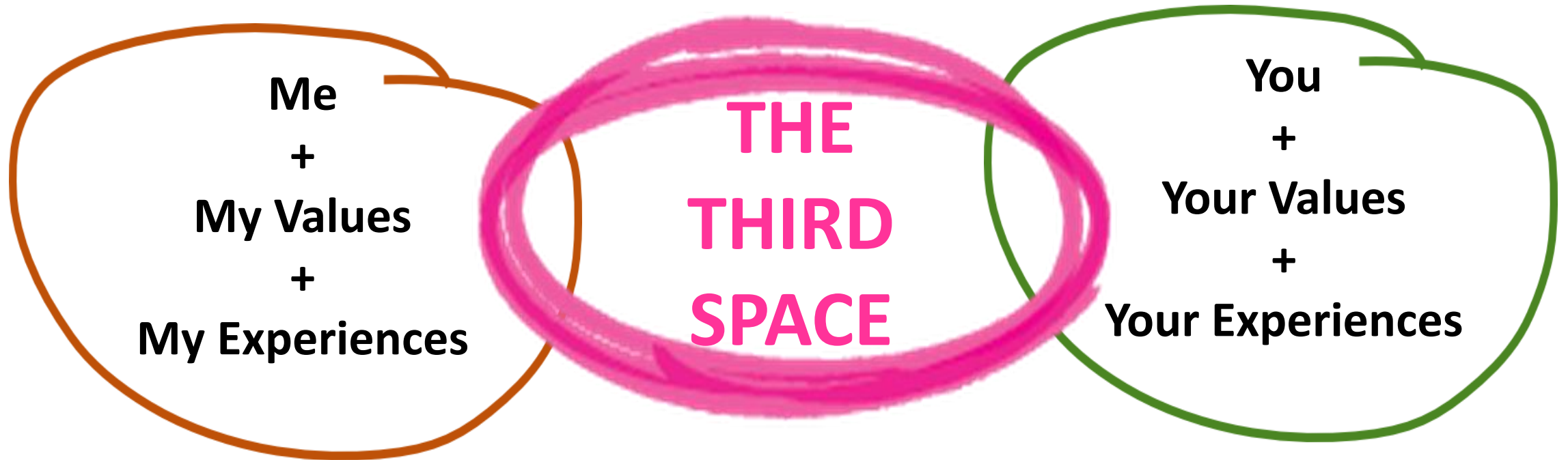
# Examples of your challenges?

Have a chat in your teams:

What challenges have you experienced  
working with families from ethnic  
minorities?



# Third Space Theory



# Finding the Third Space



1. Expect to feel vulnerable
2. Share power of decision making
3. Expect authentic relationships to take much longer
4. Use creative means to open and maintain dialogue
5. Be open to new ways of being



# How?

Sharing our personal stories as a strategy to find the third space

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVoOtMuqirU>



Who are you and  
why are you?

