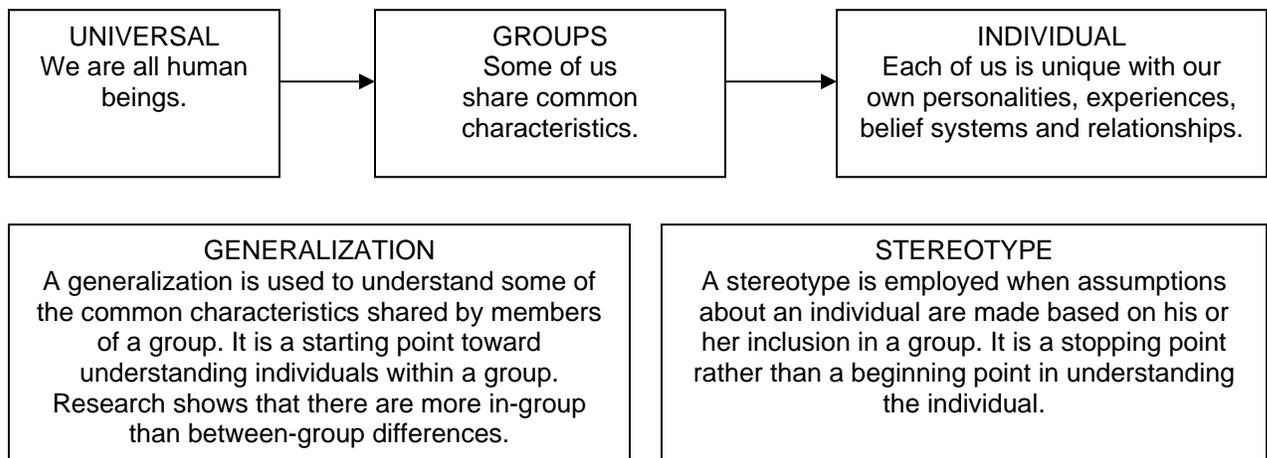


OPENING THE DOOR TO DIALOG

Understanding and talking about strengths, concerns, and needs across cultures can be challenging. When such factors as language, past experience, family history, and culture are at play, such discussions require constant self-awareness as well as sensitive communication regarding not only what is stated, but also messages that may be unintended.

By participating in the simulation today, you are making a commitment to exploring and understanding the experiences of others in a community that is focused on Latino culture. It is important to recognize the commitment of each person in El Jardin to these same goals.

Best practice in most human service fields dictates engaging with families to understand each family and each family member as unique. While we are all human beings, and while some of us share common characteristics, not one of us is exactly like any other person whether we share a common culture or not.



During our work together, we'll use some generalizations as a springboard for discussion about getting to know each of the families in El Jardin and each of the individuals in the community.

Thank you in advance for your participation in El Jardin and your commitment to further understanding of Latino families' experiences in child welfare. We'll look forward to getting to know you!