

CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING FOR YOUTH AND TEEN

## Cultural Competence

Many companies offer cross-cultural training and job assistance services to assignees and their spouses, but children are often the forgotten element in relocation. The assumption is that children will have no trouble adjusting to their host country. Since children cannot always articulate their feelings and may not express their fears verbally, many times adjustment issues are not dealt with or discovered until arrival in the host country.

### Why Does Cross-Cultural Training for Children Matter?

According to the most recent Cartus Policies & Practices Survey:

- Sixty-one percent of failed assignments were the result of the family's inability to adjust to the host country.
- Family circumstances were cited seventy-six percent of the time as the number one reason for refusing an international opportunity.

### Prepare Assignees' Children for Their Greatest Adventure Yet!

The Cartus approach to youth and teen training uses fun and engaging activities to prepare and empower children to contribute to each family's success. Children not only learn about the host country and its culture, but about themselves and the skills they will need to enjoy the adventure that awaits them.

### Youth Cross-Cultural Training Program May Include:

- Activities, games, presentations, videos and open discussion to learn about themselves and the host culture.
- Learning about where they're going and what it's like: culture, geography and language.
- Building confidence. Learning strategies for adjusting, fitting in, and making new friends.
- Discover interesting characteristics that are unique to children who move internationally with their families
- Setting goals and working together with their parents to overcome any challenges that may arise.

Youth Cross-Cultural Training is recommended for ages eight and older. Each training program is specifically customized to suit the age, interests, and experience level of the children involved. By program's end, they will set realistic and achievable goals for their move and feel more confident about their ability to adjust.

### Voices of Children Who've Been There:

- "[The trainer] helped me be more confident about what I'd be experiencing in China, then helped me prepare for it."  
– Child moving from US to China
- "It made going to France more realistic and I became more excited."  
– Teen moving from US to France
- "It taught me everything I have been wanting to ask plus more."  
– Child moving from the US to the United Arab Emirates
- "When I came here I didn't know anything about the USA but after this program my doubts were relieved."  
– Child moving from Japan to US
- "I now understand more about the country and its people and about "culture shock" and it's been very useful."  
– Teen moving from Madrid to Singapore



For more information, please contact  
[intercultural&language@cartus.com](mailto:intercultural&language@cartus.com)