

School as a Welcoming Place – Creating a Sense of Community



Set the tone

- Use friendly informational signs in families' home languages
- Display students' work
- Talk with other teachers and support staff, so everyone can partner in making the school welcoming



Take advantage of professional development opportunities

- Prepare for interactions with families by learning more about culture, communication, etc.
- Rehearse using everyday language without acronyms or educational jargon



Invite students and families to share about their home cultures

- Use what you learn in the classroom, tying into student learning
- Use what you learn in interactions—for example, some families may be more comfortable with a group meeting rather than individual conferences



Encourage family participation in association throughout the school year

- Hold shared celebrations with the entire school community
- Highlight learning in school community events
- Offer various ways for families to interact with one another

