



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



PARENT CONFERENCE 2019



Acknowledgement of Algonquin Territory

We acknowledge that
our learning is taking
place on unceded
and unsurrendered
Algonquin Territory.

We thank the
Algonquin Nation for
hosting us and
recognize their
enduring presence on
this land.



Welcoming Newcomer Families into Caring Schools: A Whole School and Community Approach

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Journey of a Newcomer Family



What is your complete name?
What is your preferred name?
Who gave you your name?
How do you experience your
name?
How do you think others
experience your name?



What's in a Name?



How do we welcome and support English Language Learners in schools?





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CONNECTIONS



Family Reception Centre



Translated registration forms

Support by ESL/ELD Leads,
Instructional Coaches



Identity based data collection



In School support

High school guidance

Orientation

Ambassadors



Communication with parents

School websites

Social media



What is the role of an MLO in schools?



Multicultural Liaison Officer

Get Settled in Ontario
GOC - MLO Program
OCISO - MLO



MLO Responsibilities

- Provide services in a supportive and culturally sensitive manner



MLO Responsibilities

SCHOOL

- Participate in the school reception and orientation process for newcomers.
- Provide orientation to school / community programs and services
- Support families to advocate on their own behalf i.e., educational needs of their children.
- Facilitate constructive and culturally sensitive communication between school staff and newcomer students/families
- Provide information to school staff about cultural-and settlement-related issues.





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Welcoming Newcomers into the school and the community



What is welcoming?

- The room is labelled with four quotes.
- Please move to the quote that best aligns with your thinking.
- Share your ideas with the other people in your group.
- Then, decide on an idea and share it with the larger group.



Welcome Suggestions

- Multi-language posters throughout the school
- Family Wall with Family Stories throughout the school
- Create a Welcome Team at your school (teachers, principals, school council, parents) for orientation and meetings involving families and MLO; find out strengths and needs of parents and students to include them at the school - *Adult Mentors*
- Create Welcome Books for parents and students
- Provide Parent Workshops/Coffee Break Meetings
- Encourage parents to be involved in the school community: School Council; Parent Information Days/Nights; Cultural Potlucks; Cultural Celebrations; Community Field Trips; Guest Speaker/Talent Workshops - parent expertise; Organize a Speaker Series featuring Newcomer Stories and/or Expertise (e.g., table talk, presentation)



More *Welcome* Suggestions

- Connect People who speak the same languages
- Parents Volunteer in the classroom (reading in own language enriches literacy; makes adult connections; parents feel productive and connected to child's daily routines)
- Have School Council former Newcomers reach out to current Newcomers
- Create a Resource Library with dual language books and community resources for newcomers

Teachers:

- Have students create Student Identity Texts (dual language)
- Create Welcome Books for students
- Organize Peer/Student Ambassadors
- Have students participate in *What's in a name?* activity
- Encourage students to be involved in the school community (e.g., clubs, sports)



Print Resource 3
Building a Whole School Approach

Welcoming Newcomer Families	Specific School Practices	Attitudes and Beliefs Held by the School Community
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a plan for welcoming families 2. Involve staff and students in the orientation of newcomers to the school 		

Edugains - A Whole School Approach



