Awareness: Intro to Awareness Video Transcript

Note: Transcripts from this video are machine generated. Please contact the WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us for accommodation needs or questions.

Hello, and thanks for joining. My name is Amanda Spalter, and I'm part of the Family and Community Engagement Project team here at WIDA. I'd like to introduce you to one of our ABCs of family and community engagement—Awareness.

We've described building awareness as an ongoing process happening in three areas. First, awareness of self asks you to critically reflect on your own identities and your beliefs about collaborating with multilingual families and communities. Then, awareness of the multilingual learners, families, and communities in your setting is another area we focus on. As one educator we've worked with recently said, "Every family is rich in culture, abilities, and ideas." So this part of awareness is all about getting to know the multilingual families in your setting individually and over time, rather than making assumptions about their beliefs, expectations, or practices. And then the third area of awareness is about building knowledge around historical contexts and broader systems, like raising your awareness around unfair policies and practices that have impacted multilingual families, as well as raising awareness about local and national advocacy efforts to change or create new policies and practices.

For this Snapshot, we worked with educators to create and share resources with you, including practical suggestions for gathering information in your communities and a video showing a collaborative effort to offer a Spanish story hour in the town library. Building awareness is not just a mindset, it's an ongoing commitment to reflect more deeply and critically, listen more openly, and co-create learning environments where multilingual learners and their families feel seen, heard, included, and respected. We hope the resources in this Snapshot help you take meaningful action to grow your awareness. Thanks so much for all you do.