

Introduction to Connect to Learning Video Transcript

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Samhita Basuthakur: Hi, my name is Samhita Basuthakur. I am a WIDA Fellow and a national board-certified English language development teacher. I am pleased to introduce one of the ABCs of Family and Community Engagement, Connect to Learning. Incorporating the identities, dynamic languages, cultural practices, and goals of multilingual learners and families and communities into learning is the focus of this ABC. Identifying, honoring, and building on multilingual families' knowledge and the language, learning, and cultural goals is foundational to connecting them to their children's learning. Engaging families in core content learning benefits both students and families. I know from my own experience, my students enjoyed collaborating with their families and were grateful for the information their family shared, which informed their writing. There is always room to reflect on and incorporate connections between students, families, communities, and the learning that is happening every day in our classrooms and schools. This Snapshot presents a few ideas for you to consider. This Connect to Learning Snapshot includes ideas and several examples from the field, including uplifting multilingualism and multiculturalism, connecting to curriculum, and connecting to a unit of study. Multilingual learners, their families, and educators are featured throughout the examples. I invite you to explore all of these Connect to Learning resources. Which resources and ideas are affirming when you consider your ongoing practices? Which ideas are new for you? You can choose to try out the ideas that are the best fit for your context. I wish you all the best as you build connections between your multilingual learners, their families, and community members, and the language development and learning happening all year long in your classroom and your school. Thank you for everything you do for, for our multilingual learners and their families.