

Connect Through Voices

Connect through Voices is an after-school program that evolved out of various focus group interviews facilitated by the English Language Learner (ELL) Welcome Centre. This program targets refugee and immigrant students to talk about students' needs, challenges they face, how schools and community help to ensure success.

Objectives:

- To provide a safe space for students to express their feelings and opinions
- To support students with language and cultural sensitivities
- To provide resources and venues to the students for their academic success and personal development

Target Participants: Newcomer ELL students

Goals: Students will:

- increase communication skills with school staff and peers
- develop working relationships with school staff and peers
- increase their understanding of Canadian culture
- increase their understanding of the school system
- communicate experiences of being a newcomer in school and addressing school concerns
- develop effective strategies for dealing with school, life and migration issues
- develop ideas and innovations for personal development

Workshop Themes:

- Making peer connections
- Understanding settlement: self and others
- Self-image, stereotypes and social skills
- Communication, conflict and care
- Staying safe in school and community
- Working, volunteering and connecting in the new community
- Graduation requirements
- Post secondary options

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