

Supporting Host Families

November 4-6, 2016



Purpose/Goal:

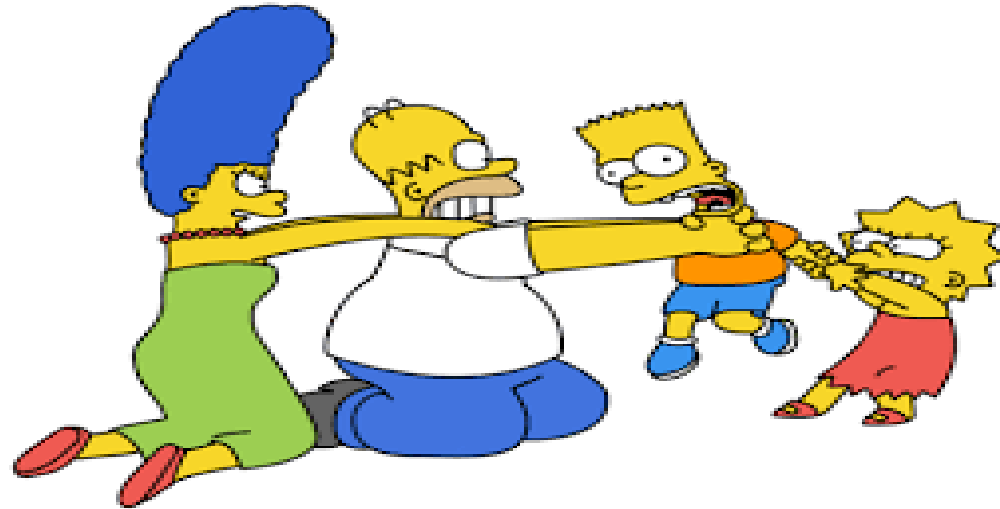
Explore and identify new methods to support host families

Learning Objectives:

- Provide support for host families
- Host Parent Volunteer Recruitment Strategies
- Cultural Exploration Support Tool

Icebreaker

What is the biggest challenge you experience in supporting host families?



Group Brainstorm



What solutions could we implement to remedy these challenges?

Components of Host Family Support

Starting Early

- Host Family Orientations
- Responsibility-driven approach
- Intercultural Learning (ICL) Strategies

Include Host Families at AFS Events

- Promote more inclusion in the AFS experience

ICL Theory and Application

Concepts

- High Context vs Low Context
- Country/Regional Context Assignments

Strategies for effectively communicating across cultures

I don't need ICL, I'm already an expert,
I went on a cruise 5 years ago



High and Low Context Cultures

HIGH CONTEXT

- Higher value on group
- Collectivist cultures
- Indirect communication style
- Non-verbal communication
- Reading between the lines
- High Power Distance

LOW CONTEXT

- Higher value on the individual
- Individualist culture
- Direct communication style
- Verbal communicators
- Emphasis on logic and facts
- Low Power Distance



Global Distribution

High Context

- Most Asian Countries
- Latin America
- Middle East/Iran
- African Countries
- Southern Europe
- Southern US

Low Context

- Northern Europe
- Most areas of the US
- Australia
- New Zealand



Application of ICL

High Context

Attention to body language, tone and gestures

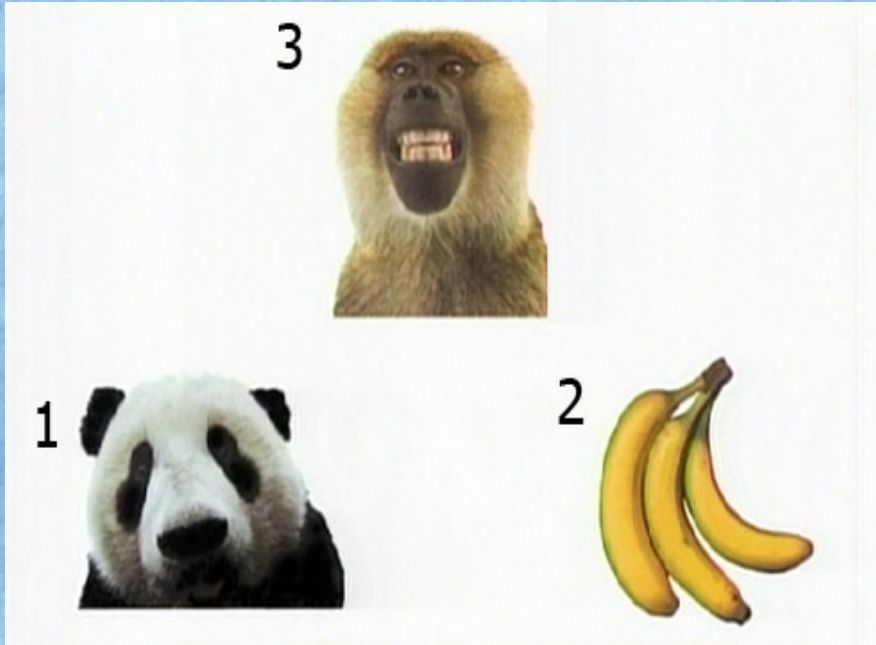
- Did you like that meal? (answer is no)
 - It was ok, I liked it, it is different
- Statements:
 - There is a game tonight at the school a lot of my friends are going
 - That is interesting
 - That person is stronger than me

Low Context

Look out for: lack of “filters”

- Did you like that meal? (answer is no)
 - No
- Statements:
 - I'd like to go to the game tonight can you take me there
 - I don't like that, I like that
 - That is stupid, That is funny
 - That person is fat

Perspective Activity!





3



1



2





It is essential to ask questions instead of assuming intent!!!

WHEN YOU ASSUME

Engage in dialogue where conflicts in communication may arise

- Slow the conversation down
- “What did you mean by that?”
- “This is how I interpret what you are saying. Is this what you meant?”

Engage in other forms of communication, i.e. writing, 1-10 scale etc.

Ask clarifying questions (to both yourself and your host son/daughter).

- How do I show respect in my culture?
- How do you communicate and show appreciation?
- How do I culturally respond to situations of conflict?

Cultural Exploration Support Resource



Discussion: Creating New Volunteer Position

Host Family Support Coordinator

Idea is:

- Developing strategies to recruit volunteer positions to keep host families engaged with AFS
- Host Family engagement/debrief Post-Student move
- Volunteers can discuss with Support Volunteers or Support Specialist to gain a summary of the reasons prompting the host family change.



What are the greatest takeaways and what do we intend to apply back home in our teams

- How can the local team assist in facilitating?
- How can AFS Staff assist in facilitating?





THANKS

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