



1st Month (Learning Focus Area #1)

- › It is realistic to assume that not all contacts with the host family can be conducted in the form of in-person meetings. However we strongly suggest having face-to-face meetings instead of phone calls, whenever possible. This is especially important for the first meetings.
- › First meetings with host families should focus on getting to know one another as well as practical advice for the initial hosting phase. Please remind everyone that AFS has special rules and regulations for hosting. Also cover key administrative areas, such as school attendance, registering with the local authorities, setting up a mobile phone for the student, etc.
- › Encourage families to reflect on their orientation activities and refer to these activities (as well as the student's orientation activities) when appropriate or to emphasize a particular point. (The orientation activities are included in this document as well as in the *Student Learning Journey Curriculum*.) In particular, refer to the arrival orientation and the first newsletter, particularly the testimonial of a host family addressing hopes, expectations and fears of host families and the video on first impressions and/or misinterpretations (see page 27 for more information about the arrival orientation, and page 71 for the first newsletter).



HOST STUDENT AND FAMILY ACTIVITY

Remind both the student and host family to go through Handout 1, **'Starting Life As a Family,'** as soon as possible. This is a form with a series of questions to discuss about household rules, safety, etc. that helps to set some realistic expectations for both parties.

Give both the student and the host family Handout 2, 'Cultural and Family Heritage Discussion Guide' with instructions on the cultural and family heritage shared activity.