



6th Month (Learning Focus Area #3)

- › By this point in the experience, communication between the host family and the student will have moved beyond mere words and gestures to more difficult areas, such as the differences in the way people show emotions, concern, affection and love for each other.
- › You can refer to the different cultural dimensions and identify where the students home and host cultures fall on their separate continua to start the learning reflection with the family. Showing emotions may be linked to different dimensions in one culture: indulgence versus restraint, power distance, masculinity versus femininity and others. See *Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions for AFS & Friends* in the ICL Digital Library at icllibrary.afs.org. Make sure you understand these different dimensions and are able to explain them to the family.
- › During this Monthly Contact & Learning Reflection, refer to the mid-stay orientation and the third newsletter, particularly the article reminding families of the objectives of the program (see page 41 for more information about the mid-stay orientation, and page 73 for the third newsletter). Ask reflection questions such as:
 - *Why are there different ways to show affection respect to different people even in the same cultural environment?*
 - *What differences in showing emotions have you noticed with your host student?*
 - *Do you know what the main differences are between your student's home culture and host culture in terms of expressing love and affection? Why do you think such differences exist?*
 - *Do you feel comfortable with the way your host student shows emotions? Why? Why not?*
 - *Has your host student changed the way he or she shows emotions? If yes, how?*
 - *Have you changed the way you show emotions? If yes, how?*



HOST STUDENT AND FAMILY ACTIVITY

From now through the 10th and final month, ask both the host family and student to discuss these three questions together every month:

- *What was everyone's highlight of the month?*
- *What was everyone's main challenge?*
- *How can we support each other with the challenges?*