

# **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS:**

Simple Ways to Connect 
With ELLs During Distance Learning









#### CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

- Create a welcoming video introducing yourself to students.
  - Share the video with the entire class or in small groups.
- Encourage ELLs to share their language and culture with you.
  - o Show-and-Tell is a great way for ELLs to show something representative of their culture.
  - o Provide sentence starters when giving students the opportunity to share.



#### **GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENTS**

- Learning about your ELL families' traditions will allow for relationship building.
- Encourage ELLs to share their "immigration stories" through the use of slide shows, comic strips, and animations.
- Ask a Question-of-the-Day, which students answer about themselves.
  - What do you like to do in your free time and what do you like about those activities? What is your favorite subject and why? What are your future goals?



#### PLAY GAMES VIRTUALLY

- Pictionary- give students a word and they have 1 minute to draw it.
- 10 Questions-give students a secret word and other students ask up to 10 yes/no questions to figure out what the secret word is.
- Charades- students act out phrases or vocabulary words and their teammates have to guess what the word is.
- Two Truths and A Lie-students write three sentences about themselves, two truths and one lie. Other students have to guess which sentence is not true.



### **CONFERENCE WITH STUDENTS**

- Gives you the chance to know the students on a more personal level. This allows for a better approach to differentiated instruction.
- When students feel known on a deeper level, it increases trust. This, in turn, leads to a higher level of student self-efficacy.
- Make a weekly 10-minute conference call.
  - Review classwork
  - Check-in on their social-emotional lives



## **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS**

- By having more contact with parents, you will learn more about your students' needs and home environment.
- Connect with parents often to inform them of their child's progress and any class updates.
- Encourage parental feedback and build trust by listening and appreciating their thoughts and feelings.