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Lesson 1.1C

ELL Case Study: Abir

I never was the “new student” growing up, but my children, however, have moved schools many times due to the military. Change can be really hard and having to adjust to a new school, new friends, but I imagine none of that compares to having to learn a new language. Kids are so resilient, that with the proper modifications and support, Abir could really excel.

The biggest challenge I think Abir is facing is not having support from her family. Although it is important for her to continue growing in her Arabic language, her parents should encourage her in her English schoolwork and growth. I think the meeting in place is a good place to start, but I think Abir needs more encouragement and support from her teachers and peers. I think diverting her attention towards things she likes and is interested in could play a positive role. Trying to engage in understanding her language and how she would say certain things as opposed to how we say them may help her see that we as teachers are only trying to help her grow academically.

Abir needs to understand how important rules and procedures are at school, not just for her, but for all of our students. I think Abir is in culture shock and maybe needs a slower pace to work at. Possibly asking her to draw a picture depicting something from her home country that she thought was so wonderful, and utilizing that within the classroom to make her feel more welcomed and that she belongs just as much as the other students. While she is in the ‘Speech Emergence’ stage of language acquisition, she may need to go back to some of the suggested activities in the ‘Early Production’ stage, such as picture reports, or role playing/charades. These activities may help her engage more rather than writing assignments. I believe the more Abir feels that she belongs, the more willing she will be to learn..