Lesson 1.1A Reflection Journal: Diverse Cultures and Communities

Throughout the past five months, I have had a few experiences communicating cross-culturally. There is a student in my SPED classroom from Russia. He speaks English very well, but there is a barrier some days on understanding words with his accent. As we engage in conversation, I do try to ask how he would say certain words in Russian. He does not know a lot but has been able to teach me how to say “grandmother”, or “Babushka”.

Another opportunity I have had is in a science ‘out class’, where I rotate with two of my students. There are two Spanish speaking students who speak hardly any English. We have found using a translator app has helped us to communicate more efficiently. I feel that my communication style and strategies are what has been most effective. I try to remember that as I am attempting to communicate with them and they look at me like they have no idea what I am saying, it is just as frustrating for them as it is me. Instead of showing my frustration and thinking it is them, I just keep trying until they give me a positive affirmation that they understand.

Going forward, I think it will be very beneficial if I took a little extra time to learn some key words in Spanish that will help me to communicate for efficiently with our Spanish speaking students.