

36 WAYS OF WELCOME

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1. Show support for new kids in school and in your neighborhood. Say hello. Show them the playground or the library. Or just smile.
2. Share foods from your culture and encourage your friends and classmates to do the same. Food is a great way to bring people together.
3. Write a letter to a refugee. Care.org has a “Letters of Hope” program that connects people with refugee children through the world.
4. Ask relatives about your history. When did your family first arrive in the United States? Where did they live? Where did they work? Did they face any hardships and how did they overcome them? If your family is Native American, how has the arrival of others affected you?
5. Stand up for kids who are being bullied, and don’t be afraid to tell an adult. Bullies usually stop when they realize that their victims have allies.
6. Volunteer with a local organization that supports immigrants and refugees.
7. Celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month in June and World Refugee Day on June 20.
8. Be Kind to EVERYONE!
9. Share stories and photos of family, friends, or favorite neighbors with new kids in school. Let them know why that person is important to you.
10. Cheer school sports teams on—together!

- 11.** Create Hope Notes. Fill your class with positivity by placing hopeful messages in a jar that kids can read and take home, knowing there is always someone who cares about them.
- 12.** Teach a fun and inclusive school yard game and ask new kids to show you a playground game from their birth country.
- 13.** Share stories and photos of your favorite animal or pet.
- 14.** Discover national holidays and national festival days from different countries and cultures and think of ways you can honor them in your class.
- 15.** Do you know how to ride a bike or skateboard? Having fun and getting places is important for everybody, especially newcomers. Lead the way by helping new kids navigate ways to get places.
- 16.** Share popcorn, smiles, and school pride on school spirit day.
- 17.** Where are your local parks? What is there to do and see there? Parks are for everyone. Learning about them can be fun and useful to share through maps and class trips to a park.
- 18.** Record a 20-second message of welcome and ask your class to join in.
- 19.** Paint rocks of welcome. Have a rock painting party and celebrate diversity by painting the names of countries and their flags on rocks. Display in the class or create a rock garden at your school.
- 20.** Learn a few words of welcome in another language.
- 21.** Start new traditions with new kids in school by planting vegetables from their birth country in the school yard or in pots in class. Or pick vegetables together to plant, care for, and watch grow.
- 22.** What does it mean to belong? Have a photo or art exhibit where all kids in class display what belonging means to them.
- 23.** Connect with music! Learn new instruments from around the world and listen to music from many countries.

- 24.** Hang flags from around the world in your class, the school hallway, or the cafeteria.
- 25.** Write a Welcome poem and share it in class.
- 26.** Create a Word Garden by painting your favorite, welcoming English words that empower, uplift and welcome. Find out how to spell them in other languages and paint them on rocks, too.
- 27.** Create a Human Library in your school or class. Take turns interviewing and recording each other talking about family history, what it's like to be part of your class and your community.
- 28.** Volunteer together by cleaning up your school yard or your town, showing your new classmate what it means to volunteer and honor community.
- 29.** Have an international food tasting day in class or focus on one new country a month and share food and helpful information about cuisine and culture.
- 30.** Build school pride by sharing what you like about your school through images, drawings, or items.
- 31.** Learn a new game in class together like ping pong or a card game from another country.
- 32.** Share the positive qualities, attractions, and accomplishments of your community with new kids in school.
- 33.** Volunteer to be a buddy to a newcomer in school during recess and lunch.
- 34.** Pack an imaginary suitcase with five objects you would take to a new country. What would they be? Share them with your class.
- 35.** Create a Pie and Poetry or Sweets and Songs event at school that include songs and poetry from around the world while sharing desserts.
- 36.** Take a class visit to your public library and be a tour guide, showing new kids how libraries can be a hub—from books to makerspaces to activities for everyone.