



CO Topic: Education

Lesson Topic	Refugee Parents and U.S. Schools
Objective	Refugees will show awareness of parent-teacher interactions in U.S. schools by describing the illustrations on situation cards and by listing what is expected of them as parents of school-aged children.
Lesson Time	40 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cards illustrating interactions between parents and teachers or school administrators, and between a parent and a child• Board or poster paper• Markers• Tape for taping situation cards to the board <p>Trainers can create the picture cards by drawing simple images on blank cards or by gluing magazine pictures onto them. Here are some possible images:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two adults talking to each other (parent-teacher conference)• An adult and a child looking at a book or notebook (parent helping child with homework)• An adult and a child standing by a bus (parent accompanying child to the bus stop)• An adult sitting in the back of a classroom (parent observing her child's class)• Two adults speaking on the phone (parent getting a call about her child from a school administrator)• A child handing a piece of paper to an adult (child bringing home a note or a report card from school) <p>Trainers can create other images based on the actual experiences of the refugees with U.S. schools.</p>
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In your native countries, were you expected to be involved in your children's education? How?• What have you heard about parents' involvement with their children's schools in the United States?
Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduce the topic by saying that parents in the United States are usually expected to be actively involved in their children's education. There are many ways that parents get involved, and refugees will reflect upon some of these by describing the images found on situation cards.2. Divide the group into pairs or small groups (three to four people), depending on the size of the group.3. Give each group one or two situation cards and ask them to talk about what the image on the card represents.4. Ask one representative from each pair or group to stand up and tape a card to the board. Then ask the representative to share with the class what the pair or group concluded about the image on the card.5. Each time a card is described, talk to the class about the issue behind the image. For example, when discussing the card picturing the parent meeting with the teacher, explain what a parent-teacher conference is, how often parents are likely to have to meet with teachers, and other information you find pertinent.6. Continue until all of the cards have been put up on the board.7. Ask, "Can you think of some challenges refugee parents may experience when dealing with teachers and school administrators?" and "What are some ways of dealing with these challenges?" (Possible answers: Asking the resettlement agency for help; finding a friend, relative, or interpreter to help me understand school notes and report cards; talking to school staff)