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# Connecting Home Experiences with Literacy Learning

— Using Digital Cameras to Highlight  
Multilingual Family Experiences —

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## As a Result of the Mini Innovation Grant Funding:

- Seven digital cameras were purchased
- 27 Active Multilingual Learners at HWES were invited to participate in the project



## Steps Taken:

After families elected to participate with the project, students:

1. Learned to use digital cameras at school
2. Took photographs at home
3. Selected their favorite photographs/subject matter
4. Returned the cameras for photograph printing
5. Took printed photographs home to share with families
6. Returned photographs with captions written in home languages to school

# Note Sent Home to Families in Their Requested Language

## Students were asked to photograph:

My favorite place

An activity that I enjoy

A holiday that is special to me

A tradition that I love

Something that I am proud of

Other

Dear Family of a Multilingual Student,

Happy New Year! Next week, selected students will bring home a digital camera to use at home for three days. The students will bring the camera home to take pictures that remind them of one or more of the following themes:

My favorite place  
An activity that I enjoy  
A holiday that is special to me  
A tradition that I love  
Something that I am proud of  
Other

After the third day, students will return the camera to school, and will choose 3-5 of their favorite pictures to print. Of the printed photos, students will select one photo to write about.

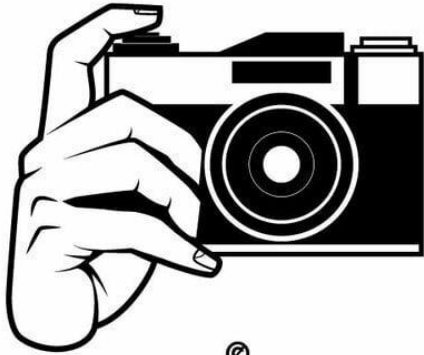
We will send this favorite photo home with a request that family members help children write about their picture in the home language that they choose (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Hebrew, Japanese, Pashto, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Ukrainian, Urdu, etc.).

We will collect these pictures and responses at the school, and compile them into a book to share with our school community. Each family that participates will receive their own copy of the book to keep.

This project is optional. In order to participate, please review and sign below:



# Before Taking Home a Camera, Students Learned:



publicdomainvectors.org

To use a digital  
camera, I need to  
know how to:

Turn the power on

Use the shutter

Use the zoom

Review pictures

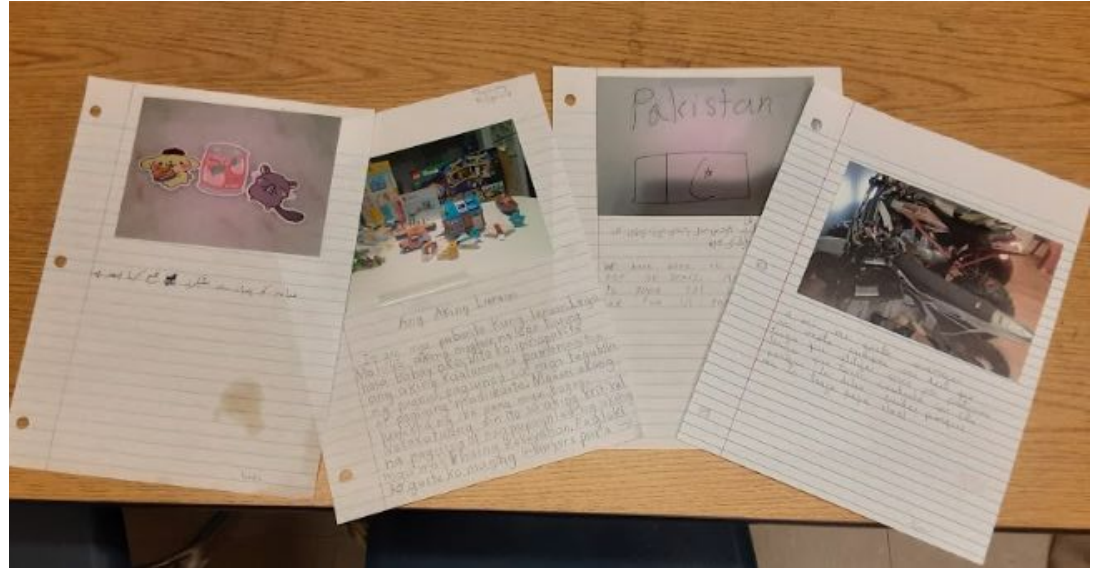
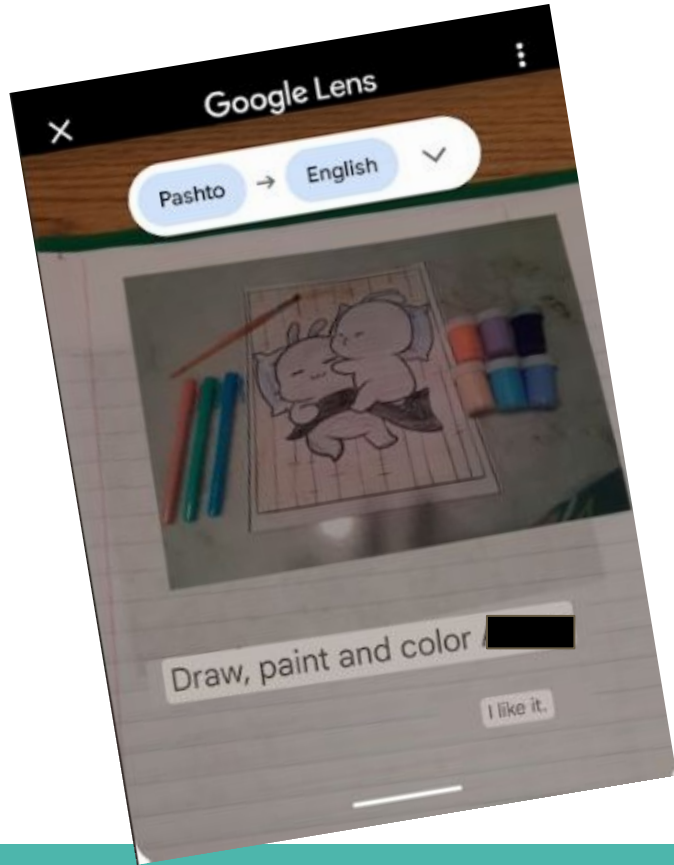
Delete pictures

Turn the power off

## As a Result of the Mini Innovation Grant Funding:

# of Families to Participate	14
# of Students to Participate	18
Languages Represented within Project	Bengali, English, Pashto, Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino), Urdu
Images	>30
# of interactions between school and home	>60
# of multilingual literacy exchanges between students and parents	>30

# Examples of Originals Returned to the School:



Parents, students, and translation apps helped to translate the multilingual text.

# Examples of Formatted Pages for the Book to Gift to Families:

I am playing with my baby giving her the bottle. I always play with my doll Sirena [Mermaid]. I am also playing with Paw Patrol, the baby chair, and a little table. And here is a drum so that the baby sleeps. This stuffed animal is for my baby.

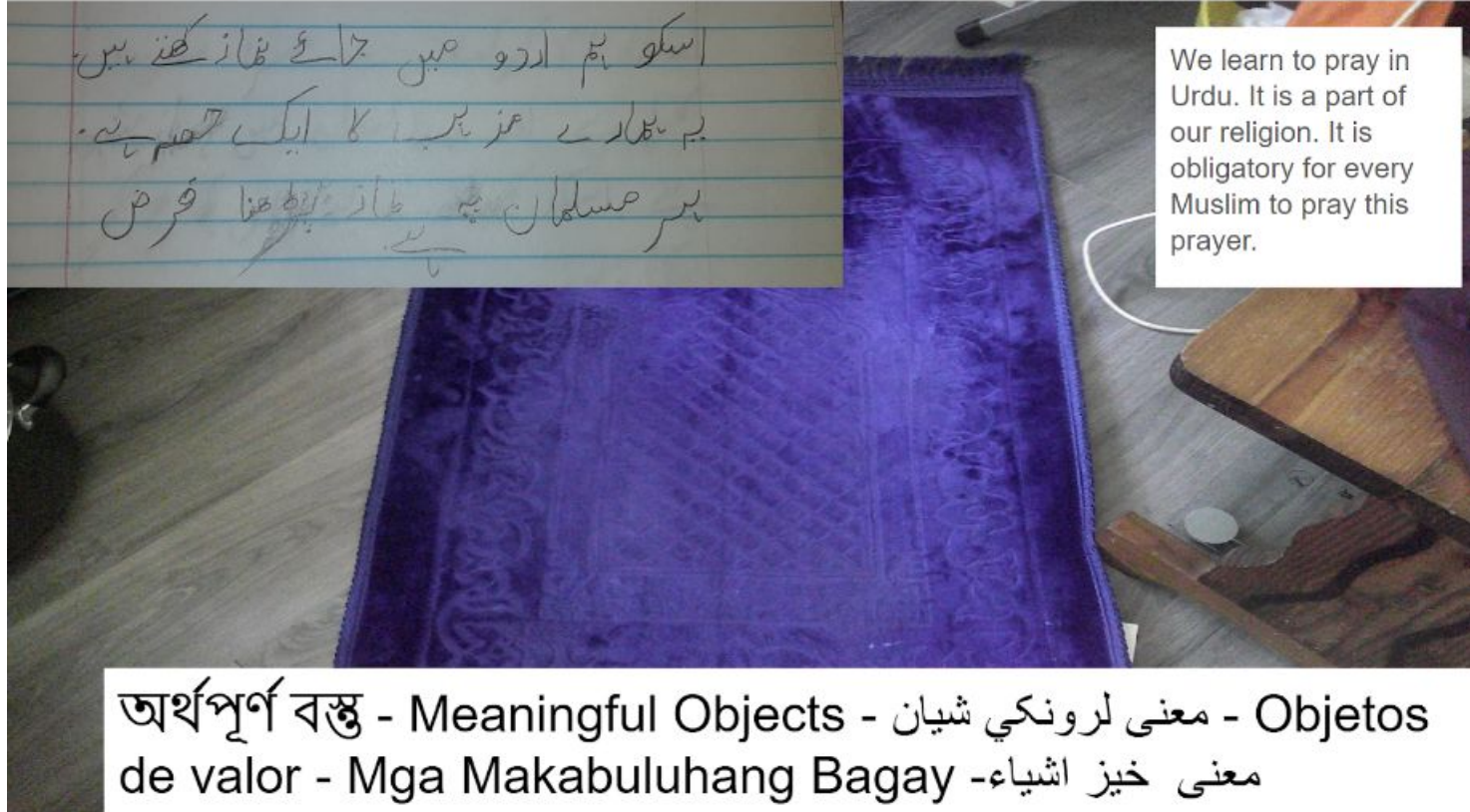


Yo estoy jugando con mi bebe dandole el tetero. Yo siempre juego con mi muñeca Sirena. También estoy jugando con el Paw Patrol, la sillita para la bebida y una mesita, y aquí está un tambor para que la bebe duerma. Este peluche es para esta bebe.

ক্রিয়াকলাপ আমি উপভোগ করি - Activities I Enjoy - هغه فعاليتونه چي زه يي خوښوم -  
Actividades que Disfruto - Mga aktibidad na kinagigiliwan ko - سرگرمیاں جن سے میں لطف



# Examples of Formatted Pages for the Book to Gift to Families:



# Examples of Formatted Pages for the Book to Gift to Families:



Ang Aking Laruan

Isa ang mga paborito kung laruan, Lego.  
Maibig akong maglaro ng lego tuwing  
nasa bahay ako. Dito ko ipinapakita  
ang aking kaalaman sa pamamagitan  
ng pagbuo, pagsunod sa mga tagubilin  
at pagiging madukarte. Masan akong  
sumikha ng iba pang mga bagay.  
Nakakatuulong din ito sa aking kritikal  
na pag-iisip at nagpapayunlad ng aking  
mga mali khatung kasagahan. Paglaki  
ko gusto ko maging inhenyero para →

makapagpatayo ako ng bahay para  
sa pamilya ko at sa mahihirap na  
tao.

This is my favorite toy, Legos. I play with my Legos every time I'm at home. This is a way for me to develop my knowledge through the construction, following directions using other strategies. It also helps me develop my critical thinking skills. When I grow up, I want to be an engineer and I will be able to build a house for my family and for my dad.

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# Next Steps

Students:

- Will take a printed copy of the book home as an end of year gift.
- Are already asking to repeat the project next year.

**Thank you for your support!**