

Effective language learning goes hand-in-hand with developing coping skills and resilience, mental health, and empowerment.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

- ❑ Religious institutions are instrumental in welcoming and supporting refugees, and providing services that are essential to their wellbeing. They provide an excellent practical context for informal language learning, and foster connections to refugees' home culture and heritage while also bridging the gap with the new community and culture.
- ❑ Arts-based programs hold potential for:
 - 1) providing a safe space for youth to explore their identities;
 - 2) introducing coping strategies for trauma recovery;
 - 3) teaching valuable real-world skills such as digital literacy;
 - 4) fostering language learning in diverse and creative ways that are relevant to the lives of refugee youth; and
 - 5) encouraging relationship-building with fellow refugees and non-refugee peers.

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ❑ Digital literacy serves four main functions for refugee youth:
 - 1) building and maintaining co-ethnic relationships;
 - 2) connecting to other members of the diaspora community;
 - 3) promoting solidarity; and
 - 4) creating and disseminating expressive digital works.
- ❑ The Internet also provides access to information on medical care, public services, driver's licenses, citizenship, school requirements, etc., as well as maintaining ties to family and homeland.
- ❑ Through computer-assisted programming, language acquisition can be more learner-centred and individualized, taking into account each learner's abilities and educational background. Students are more motivated to engage with activities that are immediately relevant to their lives, and that make use of authentic and relatable materials.
- ❑ Television and information and communication technologies (ICTs) provide refugee youth with a means to stay connected to their culture and heritage, while providing information about their new cultural surroundings, assisting with language learning, and creating a potentially world-wide community for support.

Frequent use of ICTs such as social media and YouTube, along with television, provide refugee youth with information on the cultural context of their new community, including pop culture, history, current events, norms, attitudes, expectations, and values.