

Finding Welcome in My New Country*

Kamka Kostadinova

BEFORE YOU READ: Share what makes you feel welcome.

Three Ways to Feel Welcome

When I moved here from my country, everything was new for me. I realized it was very important to find ways to feel welcome. After I had been here a couple of months, the Covid pandemic started, and it was even harder to feel connected. However, I found three ways to feel welcome in my new country: explore the natural beauty of New Hampshire, meet friends from my native country, and find an adult education program.

Visit Public Parks

New Hampshire has beautiful mountains, state parks, and beaches. Hampton Beach is a big beach where we spend a lot of time during the summer. My son adores playing with sand, building castles, and running on the beach. My husband and I enjoy relaxing and having a view of the ocean. Mine Falls Park is great for hiking. It has a lot of beautiful trees and lakes. You can enjoy the sounds of birds. Another park, Greeley Park, has a playground and an auditorium where they hold events. Finding these places to visit helped us feel at home in our new country.

Find Others from Your Home Country

Another important way I felt welcome here was meeting friends from my native country. I met my husband's friend Gjorge. Then I met Ivana online. After our first meeting, we became friends. We all spend time together during the holidays and special days for our families. My friendship with Ivana is so important for me because she gives me a connection to my native country. With Ivana, I can speak in my native language and express my feelings. We spend a lot of hours talking to each

other about different topics. She gives me information about daycare, food, and the healthcare system for my son. Our friendship means a lot to me, and every day it gets stronger.

English Class

The Adult Learning Center, where I went to learn English, also made me feel welcome. The classes are free, and they give me a lot of information about organizations and resources where I can meet people and get support. More importantly, I made a lot of friends. There are two friends who have been very special: Alma and Beatriz. Our friendship began when we decided to practice English together. In the beginning, we spent a lot of hours talking on Zoom. Now, we meet in person and have small parties. Even though I can't express my feelings the same way that I can with Ivana, I want to build these friendships. Alma and Beatriz mean a lot to me.

I Hope My Ideas Help You

In conclusion, now I know what to do if I have to move to another state. I know more about how to find welcome. I would explore the state parks, find friends who speak my language, and sign up for English classes, where I could meet more people. If you are a newcomer to this country, I hope my ideas help you.

AFTER YOU READ: Notice the structure of this essay. What role does each paragraph play? Are some paragraphs stronger? If so, why? Write your own five-paragraph essay about what makes you feel welcome in a new place.

Kamka Kostadinova was born and raised in Macedonia. She attends Advanced English classes at the Adult Learning Center in Nashua, NH.



* Two versions of this article are available: [intermediate \(p. 34\)](#) and [low intermediate \(p. 35\)](#).