

CASE STUDY

The Silent Girl

Fatima, a 9 year-old girl, has just enrolled in a public school. For weeks, she hasn't spoken to anyone. She avoids class activities, refuses homework, and seems disinterested. Teachers label her lazy or unmotivated. A cultural mediator discovers that Fátima had negative experiences at another school and that the family fears institutional rejection.

Questions for discussion:

- What early signs could have led to a different response?
- What role do cultural history and community trust play in this case?
- How should the school and the mediator work together to rebuild trust?
- What communication strategies can be used with the family?

Roleplay suggestion: Small groups simulate a meeting between a teacher, mediator, and mother to co construct an integration plan.