

## Applying the Funds of Knowledge lens to working with multilingual families: From drawings to metaphors

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Multilingual children are frequently engaging in a balancing act as part of their identity development. On the one hand, family expectations may situate them in an identity-based context they feel they do not own, on the other, societal and educational pressures may exert pressures and impart value-laden judgments with regards to home languages and identity. This talk explores two specific tools which can assist children in sharing their assumptions, thoughts, and preferences. On the one hand, a language portrait can help parents, teachers, and other professionals understand how the child experiences their different languages as part of identity development, on the other, the metaphor of "Great Aunt Edna's Vase" helps children to express their views on the heritage language. Both use a Funds of Knowledge / Funds of Identity approach to facilitate children in expressing their growing and developing identity.



*Dr Sabine Little is Senior Lecturer in Languages Education at the University of Sheffield. Her research focuses on the intersection of language, identity, and well-being, working holistically with children, families, and schools. She convenes the Literacy and Multilingualism Special Interest Group for the UK Literacy Association, and co-convenes the European Educational Research Association's Network 31: Language and Education.*

