

The RCC-Andes Connection



Documenting language in Qullakamani, Bolivia, Learning to design curriculum kits at the Boston Children's Museum

Empowering Communities to Document and Promote their Native Languages in Schools

Today on this fragile planet Earth, some of us tend llamas while spinning wool and carrying cellphones.

Is modern technology helping us live in harmony with each other and the earth, or threatening to wipe us out, or both?

- What can Andean farmers teach us about water management and climate change?
- What does it mean to speak Spanish influenced by Quechua in the Andes, or Spanish influenced by African languages in New England?
- How can we support children's early literacy in their mother tongue, and how does native language literacy relate to school success?

The RCC-Andes Connection allows us to explore these issues in Spanish and Early Childhood Education classes. Dr. Susan Kalt conducts active research on language and identity in the Andes, and is developing curriculum kits to help communities in the Andes promote native language instruction in schools. She brings what she is finding back into the RCC classroom in the form of videos, slideshow presentations and topical assignments that lead RCC students to learn from the similarities and differences between their own experiences and those of participating Andean community members.

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