



# APPROACHES TO ABORIGINAL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LITERACY

**Aboriginal Family Literacy** supports the family and community in strengthening literacy across the generations. In addition to supporting formal literacy experiences, it recognizes traditional values, cultural teachings, intergenerational relationships, and connections to the land can be part of the family literacy experiences.

## Implementing Aboriginal Family Literacy Initiatives

- **Build on** the needs, interests, and goals that honour culture, language and traditions of families and communities.
- **Balance** the kinds of literacy practices children and families will need to be successful in the **two worlds** in which they live.



## Best Practices in Aboriginal Family Literacy

1. **Includes** Indigenous knowledge and languages, Elders and generational learning, land-based learning, multiple literacies (song, ceremony, dance, print), and oral traditions.
2. **Builds on** four foundations: (a) culturally appropriate, (b) family centered, (c) focused on capacity building/sustainability, (d) accessible. (BCAAFC, 2008)
3. **Prepares** children for schooling while ensuring they become contributing members of their families and Nations.
4. **Incorporates strengths** and **resources** of the family and community (cultural knowledge, Elders, programs and services).



Aboriginal Family and Community Literacy Curriculum (AFCLC)



Human Resources and Social Development Canada

Ressources humaines et Développement social Canada



Visit our website @ <http://afclc.sites.olt.ubc.ca/>



## Resources supporting practitioners

Video clips of Elders literacy

<http://www.nvit.ca/literacyatnvit/elders.htm>

A booklet about building aboriginal languages that you could use in a family literacy program

<http://library.nald.ca/item/5991>

Examples of winter outdoor activities that promote family literacy

<http://library.nald.ca/item/8494>



## Activity

Create **storysacks** using the book *I Help* by Caitlin Nicholson (2008)

Items for your storysack:

- Tea cups
- Teas
- Medicine bag
- Language cards
- Basket
- Blanket
- Pictures of plants that make tea

Information about an Aboriginal Storysacks Program:

<http://www.nunavutliteracy.ca/english/projects/sacks/promo.pdf>



Aboriginal Family and Community Literacy Curriculum (AFCLC)



Human Resources and  
Social Development Canada

Ressources humaines et  
Développement social Canada

