



Supporting Young Aboriginal Children’s Literacy Learning

Young Aboriginal children’s language and cultural values, practices, and traditions represent their Indigenous knowledge. This knowledge can be used to support early literacy and school readiness.

Ways to Incorporate/Introduce Traditional Language Practices:

- Use Aboriginal language or words in everyday talk and circle time
- Sing songs or say prayers in the language
- Label objects or pictures in the Aboriginal language
- Learn and use ten verbs in the Aboriginal language (e.g., come eat, sit, listen, walk)

Effective Literacy Learning Environments Include:

- Quiet spaces for reflection
- Opportunities for land-based experiences
- The use of oral language (storytelling, music, drama)
- Representations of children’s culture and language

Help develop children’s oral language through:

- Introducing new vocabulary
- Listening and extending conversations with children
- Reading aloud to children
- Accepting non-standard English from children and model standard forms

Facts:

- Statistics show that the most prevalent developmental delay is related to speech and language
- Deficits in language development and language learning can be due to poverty (i.e. Matthew Effect).
- Tradition and culture tied in with school readiness skill creates successful lifelong learners.



Aboriginal Family and Community Literacy Curriculum (AFCLC)



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Hands on Learning Activities

- Use a variety of resources to enhance learning such as Aboriginal picture books, natural world information books, alphabet, trade fiction, telephone book, computer, dolls/stuffed toys, puppets, felt boards, story-card sequences.

Resources Supporting Practitioners

- Video clip of Elders from the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation. Demonstrates forms of Indigenous knowledge and their relationship to learning in early childhood development. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQiDZFiEqp4>
- BC Aboriginal Child Care Society: Provides resources and supports those who work in early childhood development: <http://www.acc-society.bc.ca/>
- Success By 6: An early childhood development initiative for ages 0-6. <http://www.successby6bc.ca/aboriginal-engagement>



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