



Effective Communication

Effective communication embraces Aboriginal traditions and values that contribute to positive and culturally relevant interactions among coworkers, children, youth, families and members of the community.



Some effective **communication strategies** include:

- Using a sharing circle to express ideas and feelings
- Attentive listening (silently with full attention)
- Time for self-reflection and making meaning of interactions
- Mutual respect
- Observation (focus on what you and others are observing separate from judgements)
- Model appropriate interactions for children, families, and youth
- Learn appropriate protocols for working with Elders, knowledge-keepers, and language speakers

These strategies are drawn from culturally relevant communication programs such as **Tribes Learning Community, Non-Violent Communication, and the Circle of Courage Model.**



Aboriginal Family and Community Literacy Curriculum (AFCLC)



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The **Circle of Courage Model** emphasizes four universal growth needs and is based on Aboriginal ways of knowing, personal development, and community values (Brendtro, Brokenleg & Van Bockern, 1990).

Circle of Courage Model



Resources Supporting Practitioners:

- The Circle of Courage: Reclaiming Youth International
<http://www.reclaiming.com/content/about-circle-of-courage>
- Offers a variety of useful information on Aboriginal communication styles, including strategies on how to best support Aboriginal learners:
<http://education.alberta.ca/media/307199/words.pdf>

Hands on Learning Activity: Circle of Courage

Ask participants to share meaningful stories that tell of experiences and life lessons about caring for children or for one another. Arrange them in the shape of a circle (see above) onto a bulletin board. Ask families to identify the component of their circle where the lesson or experience was focused.

