

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.

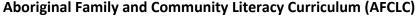


Some effective communication strategies include:

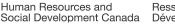
- Using a sharing circle to express ideas and feelings
- Attentive listening (silently with full attention)
- Time for self-reflection and making meaning of interactions
- Mutual respect
- Observation (focus on what you and others are observing separate from judgements)
- Model appropriate interactions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

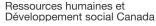
These strategies are drawn from culturally relevant communication programs such as **Tribes Learning Community**, **Non-Violent Communication**, and the **Circle of Courage Model**.









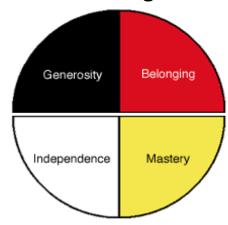






The **Circle of Courage Model** emphasizes four universal growth needs and is based on Aboriginal ways of knowing, personal development, and community values (Brendtro, Brokenleg & Van Bockern, 1990).

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.



