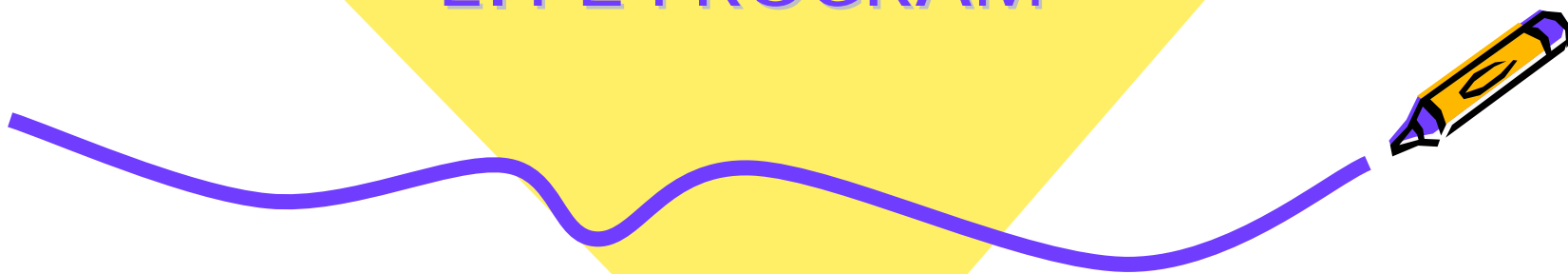


White Earth Reservation

LIFE PROGRAM



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, & HOW?



- ✓ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the total population of the White Earth Reservation and off Trust land is 9,192 people, an increase of 5% over the 1990 U.S. Census. White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa had a total enrollment of 20,989 as of 03/06/97.
- ✓ White Earth Reservation is a vast reservation with health related disparities comparable to the other reservations in Minnesota. The reservation experiences high rates of poverty, economic insecurity, lacks continuity of and access to health care resources. American Indians are uninsured at over three times the rate of Whites. (Appendix C: Populations of Color Fact Sheet, MN Dept of Health).
- ✓ There is lack of housing which creates many multi-family, intergenerational home situations, frequent relocation, and homelessness.



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, & HOW?

- ✓ Infant mortality rates are a significant indicator of the health and well being of families.
- ✓ While decreasing in the nation as a whole, infant mortality rates are alarmingly high in American Indian communities.
- ✓ 2000-2001 White Earth Home and Community Health participated in MN Department of Health (MDH) Infant Mortality Grant. Approximately 100 prenatal and post-partum women were surveyed regarding their perceptions about:
 - a) Pregnancy
 - b) Birth outcomes
 - c) Breastfeeding
 - d) Healthcare access
 - e) Infant mortality
 - f) Immunizations
 - g) Cultural practices



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, & HOW?



Analysis of the data revealed reoccurring themes that lead to identifying three primary issues of focus:

- ✓ The need to decrease substance use/abuse during pregnancy
- ✓ The need to increase awareness of the high rate of infant mortality occurring on MN reservations
- ✓ The need to provide education to parents and caregivers on several topics such as Back to Sleep, positive parenting practices, immunizations, growth and development, well child follow-up, and healthy family relationships



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, & HOW?

The Infant Mortality Grant helped White Earth
prioritize the need for services to pregnant and
parenting groups on the Reservation, the service
package became:

LIFE Program

Learning In the Family Environment

Made possible by TANF Home Visiting contract between
State of MN and White Earth Reservation.



TANF Home Visiting Contract



- Prior to this contract between the Reservation and the State of MN, all Tribes were required to contract through counties to utilize the TANF dollars
- White Earth Reservation is part of 3 separate MN counties



TANF Home Visiting Contract

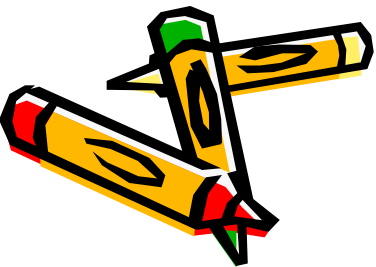
- LIFE Program is designed to promote family self-sufficiency and improve the health and well-being of children and families on the White Earth Reservation



LIFE Program Projected Outcomes



- Positive birth outcomes.
- Increase rates of well-child visits.
- Improve immunization rates.
- Families will identify a medical home.
- Improve health, wellness, & safety for Reservation population.



SERVICES



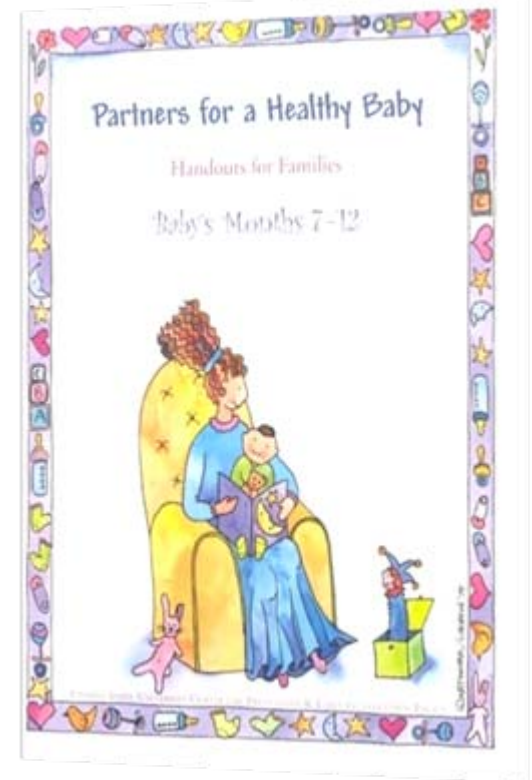
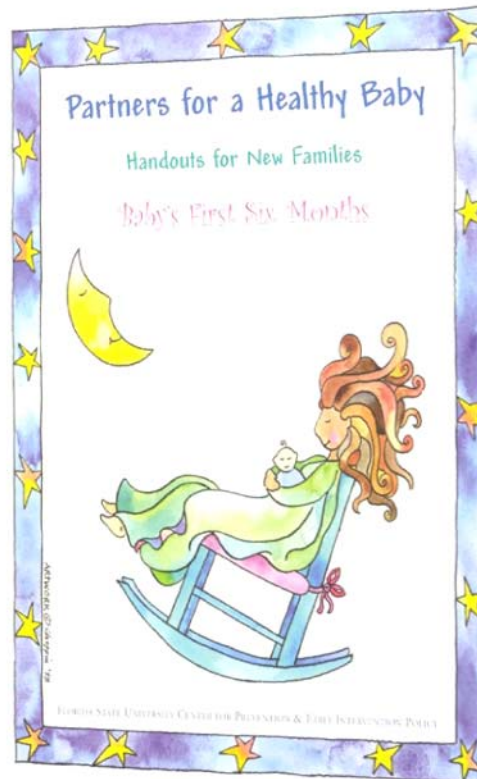
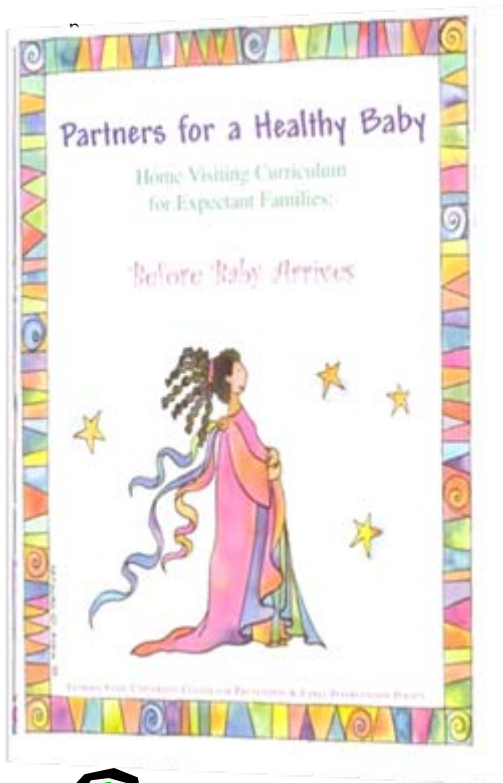
- LIFE visits are designed to meet individual/family needs, attempt to visit twice a month.
- Three LIFE Home Visiting nurses.
- Provide about 2,000 visits per year for about 200 families.
- Provide services to anyone living on the White Earth Reservation.



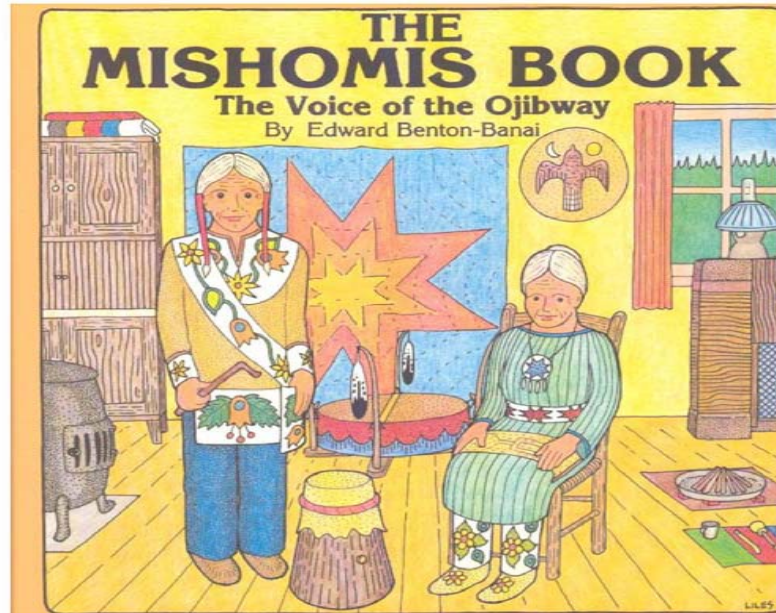
Curriculums

Home Visiting Curriculum for Expectant Families

Florida State University Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy



Curriculums



“Mishomis” means grandfather in Ojibwa language.

Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are encouraged to read the stories aloud to their children. Reading together creates an opportunity for bonding and sharing amongst family members and raises awareness of the native Ojibwa stories.



Curriculums

- POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING

Honoring our Children

by

Honoring our Tradition

A Model Indian Parent Training Manual

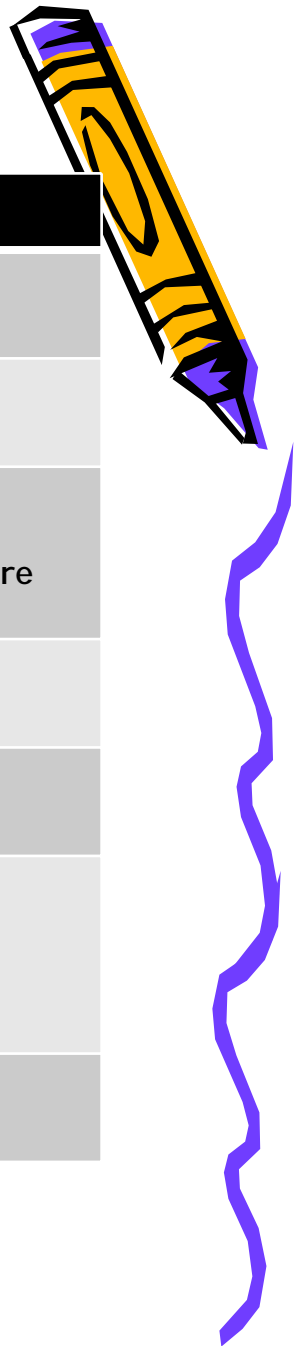
Northwest Indian Child Welfare Institute

Portland, Oregon



Curriculums

Type of Tool	Name of Tool	Developed By
Infant/child growth & development	Ages & Stages	Potter, Bricker, & Squires
Infant/child social & emotional health	Ages & Stages S&E	Potter, Bricker, & Squires
Parent/child interaction	Bright Futures Positive Indian Parenting	US Dept of Health & Human Services Northwest Indian Child Welfare Institute
Risk factors for abuse & neglect	Partners for a Healthy Baby	Florida State University
Home Safety	MDH Home Safety Checklist	MDH
Maternal Depression	Promoting Maternal Mental Health During Pregnancy Edinburgh Depression Screen	NCAST-AVENUW NCAST-AVENUW
Domestic Violence	Domestic Abuse Intervention	D A I Project Duluth



Challenges & Success!

- ✓ Developed and expanded Lamaze/Childbirth classes
- ✓ Repeat/return enrollees
- ✓ Improving immunization rates per IHS data
- ✓ Increased and improved collaboration/communication between partners
- ✓ Improved breastfeeding initiation rates

