

7 Generations

How we care for Indigenous Children and their culture today, is our legacy.

Foundation Training

Intertribal Child Welfare Training Partnership



Let's learn together!

Twawatsilay^ (All of us are family)

We will take a closer look at American Indian families and how Indigenous culture helps to shape resiliency especially for American Indian children.

We will highlight some universal values that American Indian cultures share especially amongst the 11 tribes in Wisconsin.

We will conclude with tips to working with American Indian families in a culturally competent manner.



Historical Trauma



Tiers of Trauma



Tiers of Trauma

- **Tier One: Colonialism**
 - Both European and U.S. Federal policies aim to either assimilate or annihilate American Indian people
 - Tribal governments not able to act independently

Tiers of Trauma

- **Tier Two: Socioeconomic and Political Dependence on the U.S. Government**
 - No longer allowed to live as sovereign nations
 - Forbidden to act without approval of U.S. Government
 - U.S. Policies in place to exterminate American Indians
 - Displacement from tribal lands to reservations

Tiers of Trauma

- **Tier Three: Boarding Schools**
 - American Indian children suffering various forms of abuse
 - Substance abuse in parents as a result of their loss and trauma
 - Repeated acts of genocide by U.S. Government by removing American Indian children from their families

Tiers of Trauma

- **Tier Four: Child Welfare**
 - **Indian Adoption Project**
 - 1951: BIA & Child Welfare League of America
 - **60's Scoop**
 - In Wisconsin, removals 1600x higher for American Indian children

11 Wisconsin Tribes

- Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Ojibwe)
- Forest County Potawatomi Community (Potawatomi)
- Ho-Chunk Nation (Ho-Chunk)
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin (Ojibwe)
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Ojibwe)
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (Menominee)
- Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin (Oneida)
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Ojibwe)
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community (Ojibwe)
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin (Ojibwe)
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community (Mohican)



Appreciating Differences Exercise

- Naming Practices
- Rites of Passage into Adulthood

Discuss how this is practiced in your family, community, culture.

Naming Ceremonies, Rites of Passage & Haudenosaunee Youth



Cultural Competence with American Indian Families

Children & Families

- Larger definition of extended family
- Many adults often involved in decision-making regarding children
- Children seen as essential building blocks of community
- All members of extended family and community responsible for rearing each child
- Common for children to be cared for by extended family members for long periods of time



Child Development & Learning

- Children receive more respect and equal status
- Children allowed to develop more freely and urged toward self-determination
- Teach through observation, role modeling and storytelling



Discipline

- Traditionally, corporal forms of punishment did not exist
- Shaming and role modeling were used to help children learn what they did wrong and how to correct it
- Contact with the dominant culture has contributed to a loss of traditional ways of discipline and generational cycles of child abuse



Cooperation

- Harmony with others is extremely important
- Personal orientation (social harmony) is more important than task orientation
- Respect for an individual's dignity and autonomy
- People are not meant to be controlled and one does not interfere in the affairs of another

Generosity

- Sharing is greatly valued
- Individual ownership exists but is not given prominence
- Stinginess is a trait that is discouraged

Saving

- Value is not seen in amassing large quantities of goods (e.g., household possessions, saving accounts, life insurance policies, etc.)
- In the past, nature's bounty provided food, clothing, and shelter



Time

- Indians view time as flowing rather than as something one can control
- In the past, only natural phenomena like the sun, the moon, and the seasons were used to mark the passage of time



Courtesy

- Belief in polite, courteous behavior toward others
- The avoidance of direct eye contact is based on the desire not to be rude
- Speak soft, slow and deliberate—stressing the feelings rather than the words
- Mask feelings of discomfort and will observe silently to inwardly determine what is expected of them
- Convey feelings through behavior rather than words
- Traditionally, criticism is communicated indirectly through another person or through non-verbal signs



Aging

- Value wisdom that comes from age and experience
- The family unit is close and discourages attempts to separate older family members from the rest of the family
- Since the family is a strong unit there is not a problem with generation gap



Spiritualism

- Spirituality pervades all areas of life
- Do not believe in forcing their beliefs on others
- Silence is highly valued



Building a Culturally Responsive Foundation

- Seek out information on your relative's culture and your relative's understanding of their culture
- Cultural self-examination
- Confront personal biases and prejudices
- Develop proficiency in such skills such as openness, trust, and positive communication

