

Title: Lakota Values for the Classroom

Grade Level: Lower grades

Duration: Ongoing, throughout the school year

Goal: Students will develop a sense of classroom community by greeting each other in the Lakota way and by connecting with each other in a familiar/relational way.

Objectives: Students will be able to use Lakota morning greeting “Hihanni waste” and the end of the day greeting “Toksa ake wacinyankinkte” “ye” or “yelo”. Students will be able to show respect to each other by referring to each other as “cousin” - Cepansi or Hankasi or Sicesi or Tahansi; according to male, female gender and referring to the teacher and aides using Lakota terms and protocol.

Cepansi - Lakota Female for Female Cousin

Sicesi - Lakota Female for Male Cousin

Hankasi - Lakota Male for Female Cousin

Tahansi - Lakota Male for Male Cousin

The teacher and aides may be referred to as aunts or uncles

Tunwin - Lakota Aunt - Male & Female

Leksi - Lakota Uncle - Male & Female

Standards: Language arts speech or oral language

Cultural Concept: The Lakota followed a set of rules supporting core values for living and for relating to those members of their community.

Cultural Background:

Children understand the concepts of Mom and Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Cousin, Aunt & Uncle and other family members. The Lakota had similar and expanded concepts of the family unit and members. Simplistically: “there are any number of other men and women whom you also call father and mother. Those ‘fathers’ are all the men whom your own father calls brother or cousin. They are not your uncles; only your mother’s brothers and cousins are your uncles. And those ‘mothers’ are the women whom your mother calls sister or cousin. They are not your aunts; only your father’s sisters and cousins are your aunts.” [CAIRNS Workshop Course Packet page 1] Therefore children we might not consider related could very well be considered cousins. This encourages the respect due the adults, elders, parents and grandparents of a community; tiospaye.

Student Activities:

Students & teachers greet each other with “Hihanni Waste” & a handshake.

Students will practice referring to each other by their relational “cousin” name.

Students and Teachers will discuss relationships within the family - immediate and extended. (Lakota Family Relationships)

Discussion of respect

What is respect - what does it “look like”?

How do we show respect?

Why do we show respect?

The teacher will choose and read an Iktomi story and follow with a discussion to develop the idea of respect of others.

The teacher will read and discuss Adopted by the Eagles by Paul Goble and discuss friendship and what it means to be a friend.

Resources:

Children’s literature; Iktomi stories

Iktomi’s Blanket

Iktomi and the Buffalo Skull by Paul Goble

Iktomi and the Muskrat

Iktomi and the Ducks

Adopted by the Eagles by Paul Goble

Lakota Culture/Language Teacher (Gloria Two Crow, Our Lady of Lourdes, Porcupine, SD)

Assessment:

Students use the greeting with the teacher and one another.

Students will demonstrate greater respect during classroom activities, on the playground and during other school and non-school activities.

Students will use correct pronunciation and usage of Lakota terms for cousins.

Students will use correct pronunciation and usage of Lakota greetings.

Students will practice Lakota greetings and handshakes without reminders during the school day.

References:

CAIRNS Workshop course packet pgs 1-8; Summer 2011.