

Professional Improvement Day

Jurisdiction: Northwest Territories

Contact: Seamus Quigg/Jessie Campbell

Level: K -12

Theme: Teacher Training Programs

Description of Practice:

Hold a Professional Improvement Day, where the teachers are all expected to attend, meet on beliefs and customs of the community.

Background:

Teachers who do not understand why people do not do certain things or why certain things are done, example girls cannot go over any part of a boys body.

Development:

Some teachers wanted to learn the language and sounds of the north slavey language. During this workshop discussion got around to some of the beliefs and customs of the people and why some of the Aboriginal Teachers sometimes get upset in the schools.

Evidence:

This Professional Improvement day was an eye opener for the two language specialist who were doing the workshop and the teacher participants, there was more understanding of each other's culture.

Adaptability:

This can be adapted to each jurisdiction, key issues learned will be respect for each other's culture and more understanding, when it comes to teaching the students.

Further Information

-Dene Kede

-www.deneculture.org

-elders

GOOD PRACTICES TEMPLATE

Jurisdiction:

Contact: **Seamus Quigg/Jessie Campbell**

Level: 7-12 & adults

Theme: Community-based

Description of Practice:

Have a sewing class, bring in an instructor and offer sewing classes, which includes using the language and learning from each other, done two times a week for two months.

Background:

The need to revitalize our culture and language is in great need, therefore sewing classes started so we could have people become interested in sewing and learning how to sew traditional items.

Development:

Hired an instructor and used the school classroom, and bought some materials and used some the language instructors materials to begin the sewing class. So far there have been approx. 16 participants each night, in attendance are mom's in their twenties to forties, teachers, and students.

Evidence:

During this sewing class there is a lot language used, also the participants are learning to make slippers, sew with moose hide, beading, embroidery, and over all just having a fun time creating something they would like.

Adaptability:

This can be adapted to each language group, key lessons learned would be communication between elders and youth, a sense of identity and a new sense of respect for one's culture and language, learning to create traditional items and renewal of the language.

Further Information

Dene Kede

Elders

Community people who know how to sew.

GOOD PRACTICES TEMPLATE

Jurisdiction:

Contact: **Seamus Quigg/Jessie Campbell**

Level: 1-12

Theme: Culture and Language

Description of Practice:

Bring in Elders to talk with students about Dene Laws, Beliefs and Customs, this should be done during CTS week. This will strengthen the students because they will learn more about themselves and in turn help the teachers learn more about their students and culture.

Background:

The lack of respect of some students because they do not know why they are told to do or not do certain things, example: you should pay respect to the water. There is also communication gaps which is widening each year because students and elders do not really understand each other.

Development:

There was a workshop held where the elders and students met, and the student had a lot of questions about why certain things are done or not done. This should be expanded and placed in the schools.

Evidence:

The meeting with the elders and youth was a real learning experience for the youth, they left with a sense of identity and knowing why elders say things. The elders were really glad to know that a lot of the youth wanted to know about their customs and beliefs.

Adaptability:

This can be adapted to each language group, key lessons learned would be communication between elders and youth, a sense of identity and a new sense of respect for one's culture and language.

Further Information

Dene Kede
Elders

GOOD PRACTICES TEMPLATE

Jurisdiction:

Contact: **Seamus Quigg/Jessie Campbell**

Level: 7-12

Theme: Culture and Language

Description of Practice:

Teaching students about identity, where their families come from? Taught during class time, can be taught in language class or social studies, need to be taught everyday for 45 minutes for a semester.

Background:

A lot of students are now aware of their extended families and where their great grandparents lived or in some cases how they lived.

Development:

During grade eight language classes, we were discussing family and family tree and it became clear that a lot of the students did not know a lot about their family. So I started to do research, went to the church for records or families, also went to Prince of Wales Heritage Centre for information and to elders for information and pictures. Students had to interview an elder or grandparents.

Evidence:

The students were amazed at what they learned about their ancestors and their family tree. There was a calendar created with the students research.

Adaptability:

This can be adapted to each language group, key lessons learned would be communication between elders and youth, a sense of identity and a new sense of respect for one's culture and language.

Further Information

Dene Kede

Elders

www.pwnhc.ca

Church Records

GOOD PRACTICES TEMPLATE

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Dene Kede

Elders