

Introduction to Positive Indian Parenting

Early Childhood Development in Indian Country

Minneapolis, Minnesota

October 5–6, 2016

Terry L. Cross, PhD, MSW, LCSW



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

About NICWA

- History
- Focus of work
- Resources
- Curriculum
- History of PIP Development



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture



About the PIP Curriculum

- Provide a culturally specific training for tribal communities
- Explore traditional values and belief systems
- Assist parents in developing positive parenting styles
- Promote well-being of tribal children
- How to deliver this training in your community



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture



Objectives and Outcomes for PIP Training of Trainers

- Learn the course material and be able to train parents in the strengths-based methods that were/are traditionally used in Indian families and communities
- Have the knowledge and cultural awareness of traditional practices that were/are passed down through generations
- Have the opportunity to practice the skills taught in this training in small group work and hands-on peer learning opportunities



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Objectives and Outcomes for PIP Training of Trainers

- Receive direction and material on how to work with parents and families from a Native perspective
- Have the necessary template and tools to design and implement your own culturally appropriate version of the PIP program in your tribal communities
- Have the support and encouragement of NICWA staff while you learn, during program development and program implementation



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Why PIP?

- Historically, children's safety and welfare was a top priority
- Children highly valued as they were/are seen as the tribe's future
- Responsibilities of child care and discipline were shared amongst many members of the community



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture



The Impact of Federal Policy

- American history and federal policy have impacted Indian families and children since first contact
- Impacts of historical trauma

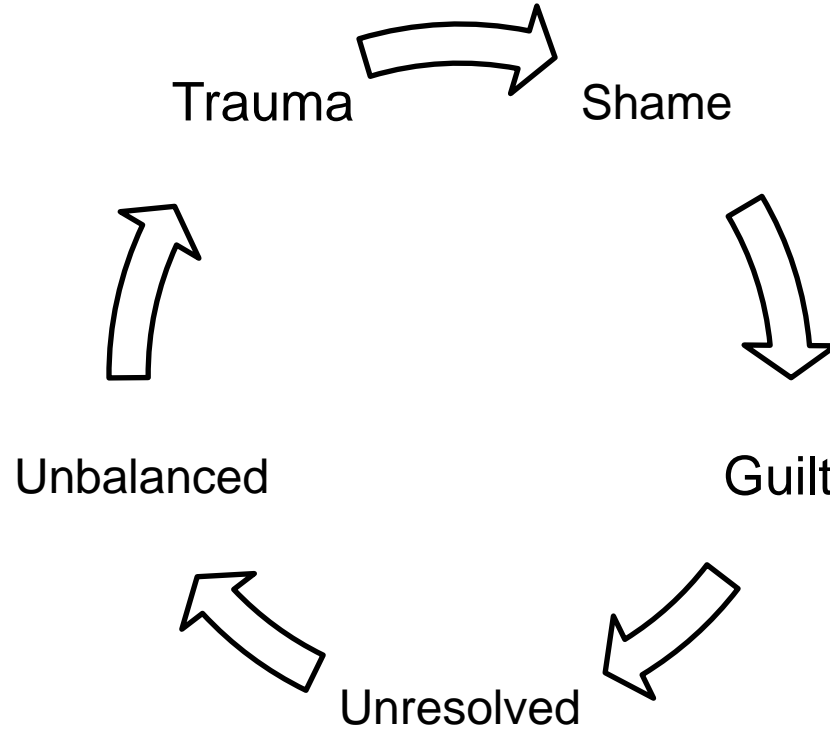


NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture



Impact of Historical Trauma



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Advice from our Elder Advisors

“You can’t do
what you don’t
feel.”



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

PIP Lessons

- Traditional Parenting: Where we learn to parent
- Lessons of the Storyteller
- Lessons of the Cradle Board
- Harmony In Child Rearing
- Traditional Behavior Management
- Lessons of Mother Nature
- Praise in Traditional Parenting
- Choices in Parenting



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Lessons of the Cradleboard



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Lessons of the Cradle Board

- Explores attachment and child development from the perspective of cultural wisdom
 - Cradle Boards
 - Infant massage
 - Shall carrying
 - Games
- Examines nurturing practices
- Introduces concepts of development



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Tradition in Child Development

- Traditional ways that recognize and encourage development.
 - Pregnant moms
 - Naming Customs/Rights of Passage
 - Giving room to learn
 - Readiness



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

Value

Practice

Developmental Task Brain

Balance Harmony	Cradleboards, baby baskets, swaddling.	Self-regulation, attachment, bonding, trust, sensory development	Relational stimulated neuronal development Visual cortex stimulation, sensory simulation regulated turning visual stimuli into patterned neural activity
	Blanket, back, or shawl carrying.	Self-regulation, attachment, trust	Vestibular stimulation (balance/movement), sensory integration
	Hammocks, side-to-side movement.	Self-regulation	Vestibular stimulation (balance/movement), sensory integration
	Placing child on natural fur, hide, fleece, buffalo robe.	Sensory motor, self-regulation	Equilibrium, cross-system regulation

Culture Matters!



My Mom and Grandson

Terry L. Cross, PhD, MSW, LCSW
Founder and Senior Advisor
National Indian Child Welfare
Association

tlcross@nicwa.org
(503) 222-4044

www.nicwa.org