Introduction to Positive Indian Parenting

Early Childhood Development in Indian Country
Minneapolis, Minnesota
October 5–6, 2016
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About NICWA

- History
- Focus of work
- Resources
- Curriculum
- History of PIP Development
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
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.
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
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
The Impact of Federal Policy

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

Trauma → Shame
Shame → Guilt
Guilt → Unresolved
Unresolved → Unbalanced
Unbalanced → Trauma
Advice from our Elder Advisors

“You can’t do what you don’t feel.”
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
Lessons of the Cradleboard
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
Tradition in Child Development

• Traditional ways that recognize and encourage development.
  – Pregnant moms
  – Naming Customs/Rights of Passage
  – Giving room to learn
  – Readiness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Brain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>Cradleboards, baby baskets, swaddling.</td>
<td>Self-regulation, attachment, bonding, trust, sensory development</td>
<td>Relational stimulated neuronal development Visual cortex stimulation, sensory simulation regulated turning visual stimuli into patterned neural activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony</td>
<td>Blanket, back, or shawl carrying.</td>
<td>Self-regulation, attachment, trust</td>
<td>Vestibular stimulation (balance/movement), sensory integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hammocks, side-to-side movement.</td>
<td>Self-regulation</td>
<td>Vestibular stimulation (balance/movement), sensory integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Placing child on natural fur, hide, fleece, buffalo robe.</td>
<td>Sensory motor, self-regulation</td>
<td>Equilibrium, cross-system regulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Culture Matters!

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My Mom and Grandson