
MnTRECC NEWS



Planning Team Meeting

Tribal Child Care program staff meet on a routine basis to discuss child care topics relating to the American Indian communities we are working with. Our last meeting was held on February 3, 2006. We would like to thank our special guests at this meeting:

- *Jane Kretzmann from the Bush Foundation - Infant/Toddler Care
- *Jessie Schunk from DHS - DHS Professional Development Tools

Our next meeting will be combined with our MnTRECC Retreat and will tentatively be held on June 15, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Event Center in Walker.



Tribal Early Childhood Network

The MN Department of Human Services sponsors regular Tribal Early Childhood Network (TECN) Meetings. These meetings bring Tribal Early Childhood Professionals together from throughout the state to network and share information about their programs.

There has been a significant decrease in attendance at the meetings in the past year. Some of the MnTRECC Planning Team members will be drafting a survey that will be distributed throughout the American Indian Early Childhood programs. This survey will be used to determine a possible re-structure of the Tribal Early Childhood Network Meetings.

Please participate in this survey when it is distributed so we can use your valuable input in future planning.

Please call Tamie Finn at (218) 335-8240
if you have any questions

MN TRECC
Minnesota Tribal Resources
for Early Childhood Care

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March 2006 through
June 2006

FYI:

- ☺ Grants Program
Communities Collaborative
Scholarships available soon
- ☺ Trainers Gathering
Come join us for networking,
learning and fun

Inside this issue:

Planning Team Meeting	1
Tribal Early Childhood Network Meeting	1
Grants Program	2
Tribal Work Groups	2
Trainers Gathering	2
New Staff	3
Upcoming Events	3
Center for Inclusive Child Care	3

Grants Program

MnTRECC Grants Advisory Committee members met on January 6, 2006 to review applications. This was a very difficult task this year as there was considerably more money requested than we had funds for.

American Indian child care providers and programs were awarded \$16,000 in the categories of Child Care Services, Infant/Toddler and School Age Care. Awards were made to 11 Family Child Care providers and 5 centers. Two American Indian organizations who provide services to FFN caregivers were awarded FFN Incentive packages that will serve 30 FFN providers.

A new grant round will open in April to give American Indian child care providers/programs the opportunity to apply for scholarships to the Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference in Mahanomen.



All children wear the sign,
"I want to be important now!"
Problems arise because nobody
reads the sign.



MnTRECC Work Groups

Tribal Curriculum Work Group: This group was formed to develop a plan that will look at ways to deliver infant/toddler curriculum, Positive Indian Parenting curriculum and other tribal curriculums to the American Indian communities in a comprehensive way. Funding for this work has been provided by the Bush Foundation and the MN Department of Human Services. Members for the work group have officially been selected and approved. Letters will be going out to those members by the end of February to invite them to the first planning meeting which will be held at the Grand Casino in Mille Lacs on March 15th.

Metro Work Group: In November 2005, MnTRECC sponsored an informational meeting to give tribal early childhood programs in the metro area an opportunity to gather and network. The group showed an interest in meeting again to network, but also wanted to develop some goals they could work toward as a group. At this past meeting on February 24th the group had an amazing discussion relating to barriers that families have in accessing services. Future meetings will focus on action steps that can move them in the direction of eliminating these barriers.

Trainers Gathering

MnTRECC has put much effort this past year into providing support for American Indian early childhood trainers or individuals who wish to become early childhood trainers. There are many opportunities available now and in the near future for professional educators and many avenues of support available through MnTRECC.

A Trainers Gathering will be held on March 31st at the Grand Casino in Mille Lacs. All American Indian early childhood trainers are invited to attend to network with other trainers and gain first hand information about training opportunities and MNTRECC support services. Diane Smith, MnTRECC Professional Development Coordinator will be sending more details in the near future.

Welcome — Sandy

When you get a chance, please help us welcome the newest member of our MnTRECC staff team - Sandy Williams, Special Projects Coordinator.

Sandy joined us on February 13th and brings with her a multitude of skills & experiences. She previously worked as a Home-Based Teacher at the Bemidji Bi-County Cap Head Start Program where I am sure she will be greatly missed.

Sandy's immediate work for MnTRECC will revolve around the two new Work Groups that are being established: The Metro Early Childhood Work Group and the Tribal Early Childhood Curriculum Work Group. Please call her if you have any questions or just to say "hi".

Upcoming Events

March

15	Tribal Curriculum Work Group Meeting
30	Voices for Children Advocacy Day
31	MnTRECC Trainers Gathering

April

1	MnTRECC Grant Applications Available Communities Collaborative Conference
27 & 28	CCR&R In-Service

May

1—4	National Indian Child Care Conference Rapid City, South Dakota
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June

15	MnTRECC Planning Team Meeting
15 & 16	MnTRECC Tribal Early Childhood Retreat

Center for Inclusive Child Care

SAVE THE DATE! The Center for Inclusive Child Care (CICC) at Concordia University is hosting the 2nd annual "Inclusion Institute: Together We Can! Creating Positive Options for Children with Special Needs and Their Families" on June 24, 2006 from 8:00 am to 4:45 pm. This conference will feature sessions that support inclusion of children with disabilities and special health needs in community settings. Contact Priscilla Weigel at clweigel@msn.com for more information or log onto www.inclusivechildcare.org. Registration will be available online in April 2006 or by contacting Cindy Croft at croft@csp.edu or 651-603-6265.

Register for Eager-to-Learn on line classes at <http://etl.mnchildcare.org> or contact Cory Woosley at coryw@mnchildcare.org for more information

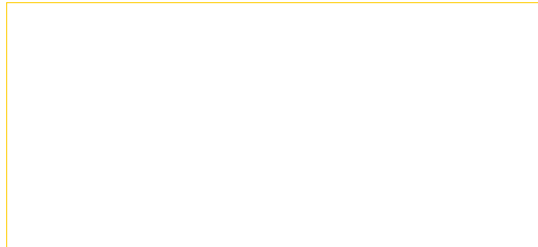


WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?

This question was posed to a group of 4–8 year olds. These are some of their responses:

- ☺ "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know your name is safe in their mouth." (Billy—age 4)
- ☺ "Love is what makes you smile when you are tired". (Terri—age 4)
- ☺ "Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." (Mary Ann—age 4)
- ☺ "Love it's what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." (Bobby—age 7)
- ☺ You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." (Jessica—age 8)

WOW!!



DID YOU KNOW?
That a Sioux Chief, Running
Antelope, is the only
American Indian featured on
American currency?

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MnTRECC Mission Statement

To serve as a foundation and a link where child care and other early childhood programs can gain access to resources and information that will enhance and strengthen the child care delivery system for Native American children and families throughout the state of Minnesota

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MnTRECC is a component of the Child Care Services Program within the Leech Lake Early Childhood Development Department

