

Ideas for schools

Children learn the language by having it all around them. That means using it in everyday life. Schools are a big part of everyday life. Here are some ideas for including Aboriginal language in your school programs during Aboriginal Languages Month.

- Include traditional activities like storytelling, drum dancing, games and singing in your program. These are ways that children can learn and use language without a formal language lesson.
- Invite people who are fluent in the language to your school. Ask them to speak the language when they come. Find out what their strengths are and plan for these activities. You can do this activity with parents.
- Have an Aboriginal language lunch once a week. Plan some traditional games, like string games, or Arctic or Dene games.
- Have a stew and bannock lunch with readings from some books in the language of your community.
- Make a display of Aboriginal books in your library or hall. Encourage students to borrow them.



Celebrate Aboriginal Languages Month

- Have a cultural activities day. This can include sewing, tool making, fishing, cooking, beading, etc.
- Set up an Elders' room in the school. Have tea and bannock available. Encourage students to drop in and talk to the Elders. Remind them to be respectful.
- Have a sentence of the day displayed around the school. Teach students the new sentence every day. It can start with "Good morning" and go on to other things.
- Write labels in the language of your community and stick them up around the school.
- Have an outdoor scavenger hunt. Students can look for the language in the community e.g. street signs, government buildings, etc.
- Have a quiz on Aboriginal languages in the NWT.

