



Walking Together

In-Service Training

Course Description

This 3-hour experiential workshop will provide you with the tools and confidence you need to engage children and youth in your care with their culture and community in meaningful ways. This workshop will be co-facilitated by an Elder or Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, and you will have the opportunity to experience a variety of Indigenous cultural practices and learn about Indigenous worldviews.

Learning Objectives

- Describe your experience with the practices of offering cultural protocol, smudge, blessing, and sharing circle.
- Describe how to incorporate Indigenous values and worldviews into the culture of your home.
- Contribute to a robust collaborative cultural plan to immerse a child in your care to their cultural identity and community.
- Identify concrete, everyday practices to promote cultural pride, identity, and belonging for children and youth in your care.
- Demonstrate increased confidence building relationships with family members, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and others in the child's community.

Key Messages

- Indigenous cultures, worldviews and traditions are diverse. There is diversity as well as within communities, families, and individuals.
- When working with Indigenous children, youth, families, and communities, it is important to learn about their unique culture, traditions, and worldview.
- The more you know about Indigenous people, the richer our lives become collectively; this is a key step in reconciliation.
- Indigenous families and communities are the experts on their experiences, family life and future as well as their strengths, potential for change, and resiliency.
- The goal of the cultural plan is to reinforce your commitment as the child's caregiver to connect them to their culture every day.

Guided Discussion Questions

1. What specific actions are you taking (or can take) each day to connect Indigenous children in your care to their culture in a meaningful way?
2. How do you approach situations where children or youth seem hesitant to engage with their culture? What are some ways you can start a meaningful conversation with them, meet them where they are, and gently encourage openness to cultural learning and practices?

Resources

Resource One: Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association

Link- <https://anfca.com/>

Resource Two: Métis Nation of Alberta

Link- <https://albertametis.com/>

Resource Three: Rupertsland Institute Métis Centre for Excellence

Link- <https://www.rupertsland.org/teaching-learning/resources/>

Resource Four: Family Resource Networks (Government of Alberta)

Link- <https://www.alberta.ca/family-resource-networks>