

NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE

X w l e m i E l h > T a l > N e x w S q u l



National Family and Community Engagement Conference

Let's Have Fun Together,
Strengthen our Traditions, and
Back One Another as Parents

Chicago, IL
June 23, 2015

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Ké' Early Childhood Initiative:

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
WITH FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Lummi Nation

Lummi Nation

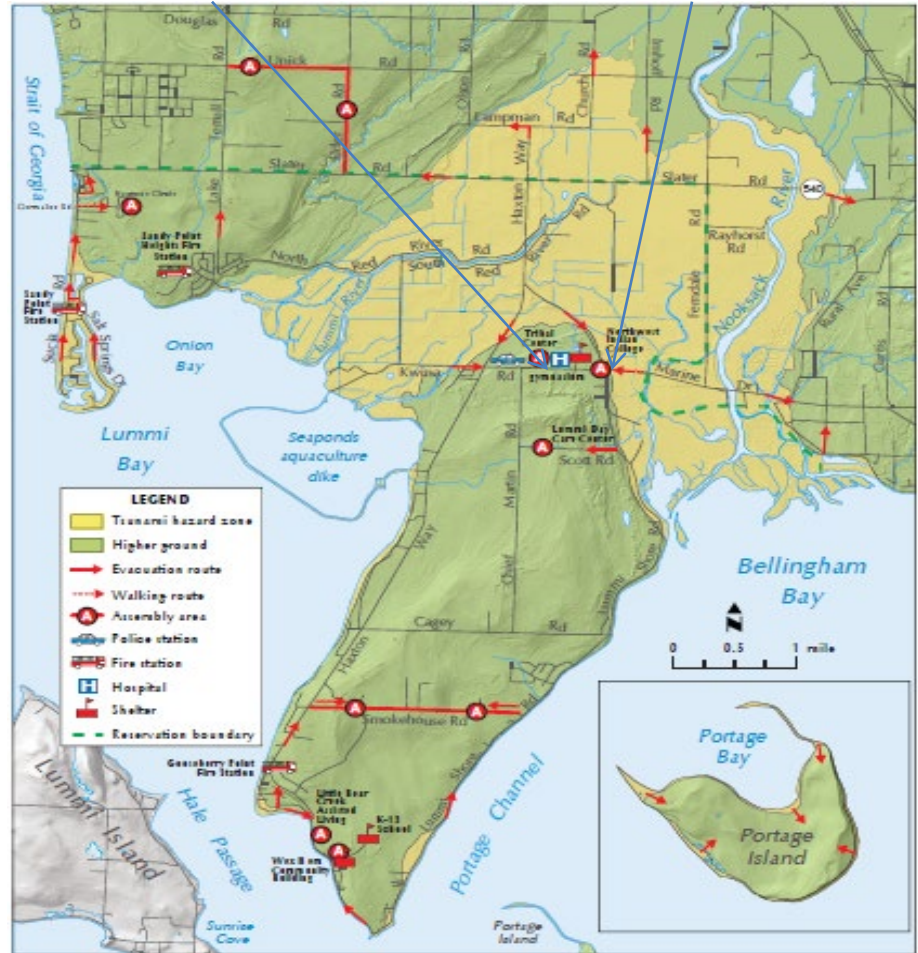
Lummi Head Start

Northwest Indian College



WASHINGTON

#82675244





The Source of our Work

- Listening Sessions with parents and grandparents during the preliminary planning period (Spring 2014)
- Families wanted to
 - “...learn about our Lummi culture *with* our children from our own people”
 - Have Listening Partnerships and Support Groups with each other
 - “Have fun with our kids!”
- Two Hypotheses:
 - Fun is beneficial for families and for children’s learning
 - Co-creating the project with families will lead to increased levels of participation, enthusiasm, and shared responsibility / leadership / advocacy



Lummi Parents' / Northwest Indian College's Seven K'e' Goals

1. Shared leadership in the Initiative
2. Strengthening children's Native / Lummi identity
3. Increasing support for the work of child-rearing
4. Building increased confidence in and enjoyment of child-rearing
5. Building a cadre of Lummi parents who can become leaders in Parenting Peer Support
6. Positively impacting educational systems serving Lummi children
7. Increasing the effectiveness of family / community / schools in supporting Lummi children's cultural, social / emotional, cognitive, physical, and language development





Ké' Early Childhood Initiative:

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
WITH FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Three Major Efforts

1. Ey' Snat (Good Night) for Family Fun
2. "Parenting by Connection" Mastery Class
3. Family Play Evenings

Effort Number 1: Ey' Snat for Family Fun

(Having fun together and strengthening our traditions)

Parents said, "We want to learn *with* our children about our culture."



Inaugural Ey' Snat: We began in September 2014 with a Traditional Salmon Barbeque

Aligns with Project Goals:

- Shared leadership in the Initiative
- Strengthening children's Native / Lummi identity
- Increasing support for the work of child-rearing
- Building increased confidence in and enjoyment of child-rearing
- Positively impacting educational systems serving Lummi children

October Ey' Snat: Coast Salish Art for Families



*Lummi Artist, Bill Jefferson, and
Lummi Tribal Member, Heather Jefferson*

*Parent and Child Artists,
Stephanie and Logan*



December Ey' Snat: A meal, family connections, and a make and take



*Lummi parent and Ke' Program
Assistant, Kendra Kelly*



*First Nations parent and ECE
Student, Tasha Wilson with Louise*

February Ey' Snat:

Drums, Drum Bags, Beading, Storytelling, Lummi Song and Dance



*Lummi Head Start Teacher Assistant
and Tribal Member,
Andrea Jefferson*



*Elder and Early Childhood
Educator, Ernestine Gensaw,
with Lummi children*

March & April Ey' Snat: Transitioning to Kindergarten



*Richard Jefferson blessing the
delicious meal that Mary Teri
Kennedy helped to prepare*



March Ey' Snat: Transitioning to Kindergarten



*Family Craft Activity—
Materials included beads,
driftwood, feathers, fancy
glues, twine, etc.*

*Literacy and Activity
Baskets for Summer
Fun and Learning sent
home with each family*



April Ey' Snat

- This year—Lummi Head Start parents chose to sew children's shawls and vests instead buying graduation gowns.
- Children wore "caps" of woven brown paper strips to resemble cedar.
- Ey' Snat for Sewing, April 24th at Head Start



Lummi Head Start Graduate,
Melissa Lopez-Somerville



Lummi Head Start
Graduate,
Tivon Jefferson-Wilson

Effort #2: Parenting by Connection

(Backing One Another as Parents)

Listening Tools



Adult-to-Child
Staylistening
Special Time
Setting Limits
Playlistening

Adult-to-Adult
Listening Partnerships
Support Group

Weekly parent # 2

Adult-to-Adult Listening Tools

Listening Partnerships

Support Groups

GUIDELINES FOR LISTENING

Listen with:

Respect

Attention

Warmth



Remember:

You're important

They're smart

No advice

Keep it confidential

Weekly posted # 1

Listening to Children during their Emotional Moments



Staylistening with a child

Creating Resource to Teach Parenting by Connection

- Make “Parenting by Connection” available to more Lummi parents
- Learn to be Hand in Hand Parenting teachers, assistant teachers, and support group leaders

Aligns with Project Goal:

- Shared leadership in the Initiative
- Building a cadre of Lummi parents who can become leaders in Parenting Peer Support



*Parents—Listening Partnership
between parents
Anna Somerville and Christine Edwards*

Effort Number 3: Family Play Evenings

(Having fun together and backing one another as parents)

Family Play Evenings Support the Parent / Child Connection

With playfulness, food, and fun

- Relaxed time for parents to follow their children's lead in play
- Development of a "Play Team"



Project Co-Director, Nahrin Aziz Parsons, connecting with Hunter and his father, Joe



ECE Graduate and Lummi Parent, Alexis Ballew, Playing with Luis and Jackson

Aligns with Project Goals:

- Shared leadership in the Initiative
- Increasing support for the work of child-rearing
- Building increased confidence in and enjoyment of child-rearing

Family Play Evenings – The Environment



Family Play Evenings – The Environment



Family Play Evenings

- Parent-to-Parent Support Group
- Mastery Class students provide additional leadership:
 - Modeling Playlistening, Special Time, Setting Limits, and Staylistening
 - As Support Group Leaders



Jackson having fun!



Children playing with Play Team Member, Christian Cultee and Parent, Rachel Goodman



Play Team Members Masa, Julie, Gary, and Amanda playing with Lummi Children

Family Play Evenings



Luis, Jackson, and Tivon playing with Play Team Member, Nahrin Aziz Parsons

Family Engagement

- 6 Ey' Snat for Family Fun
- 25 Weekly Mastery Classes
- 5 Family Play Evenings
- Participating Families = 100+

When we asked,
“If money were
no object...”

A Culminating Activity for the 15
families participating most
consistently.

Great Wolf Lodge Family Play Retreat!

- Aligns with Project Goals:
 - Shared leadership in the Initiative
 - Increasing support for the work of child-rearing
 - Building increased confidence in and enjoyment of child-rearing

Culminating Event: Family Play Retreat

*Children and Families Arrive
at Great Wolf Lodge*



Hunter wearing his wolf ears & playing with Sasquatch

Family Play Retreat

(Having fun together, strengthening our traditions, and backing one another as parents)

*Participants in the 7 am
Parent Support Group*



*Children having fun
in the Water Park*



Family Play Retreat



Children and Families Enjoying a Meal Together

Family Play Retreat



*Lummi Elder teaching children
to weave with cedar bark*



Family Play Retreat



*Parents and Children
Weaving with Cedar Bark*



Family Play Retreat



Families doing Beadwork

Our Accomplishments and Hopes

■ Three Major Efforts

1. Ey' Snat Family Fun Nights
2. "Parenting by Connection" Mastery Class
3. Family Play Evenings
With Culminating Family Play Retreat

Hallmarks:

Strengthening our Traditions
Backing One Another as Parents
Having Fun with our Children

Our hope—to continue nurturing these efforts for continued mutual support of families' lives, improvement of early education at Lummi, and strengthened parent advocacy for education.

Alignment with all Seven Project Goals


1. Shared leadership in the Initiative
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Your Turn: Table Top Support Groups

**GUIDELINES
FOR LISTENING**

Listen with:
Respect
Attention
Warmth

Remember:
You're important
They're smart
No advice
Keep it confidential



Weekly printed # 1

Family Engagement in Tribal Communities:

Ke' Experiential Truths

- Family Engagement
- Intergenerational Participation
- Historical Understanding
- Respecting Family Demands
- Educational Sovereignty



Ké' Early Childhood Initiative:

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
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Resource

- Hand in Hand Parenting, www.handinhandparenting.org

NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE

X w l e m i E l h > T a l > N e x w S q u l



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Ke' Early Childhood Initiative:

STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
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