



A Community-Based Catalyst for Creating Connection
Northwest Indian College, WiPC:E May 22, 2014

Introduction

Purpose - to create innovative, tribally-based activities and solutions to

- Empower families and communities
- Create better education for children in the Lummi community
- Engage Lummi language and culture in all areas of education

Partners

- Early Childhood
 - Northwest Indian College Early Learning Center
 - Lummi Nation Head Start
- K-3 Education
 - Lummi Nation School
 - Eagleridge Elementary / Ferndale School District
- Higher Education
 - Northwest Indian College Associate of Applied Science - Transfer Degree in ECE

Methods

Engaging Partners

- Professional Learning Communities
- Coordinating Team
- Advisory Committee

Measuring Effectiveness

- Qualitative Research: Evaluations, Interviews, Focus Groups, Field Notes, Minutes
- Quantitative Research: Teaching Strategies GOLD, Measure of Academic Progress

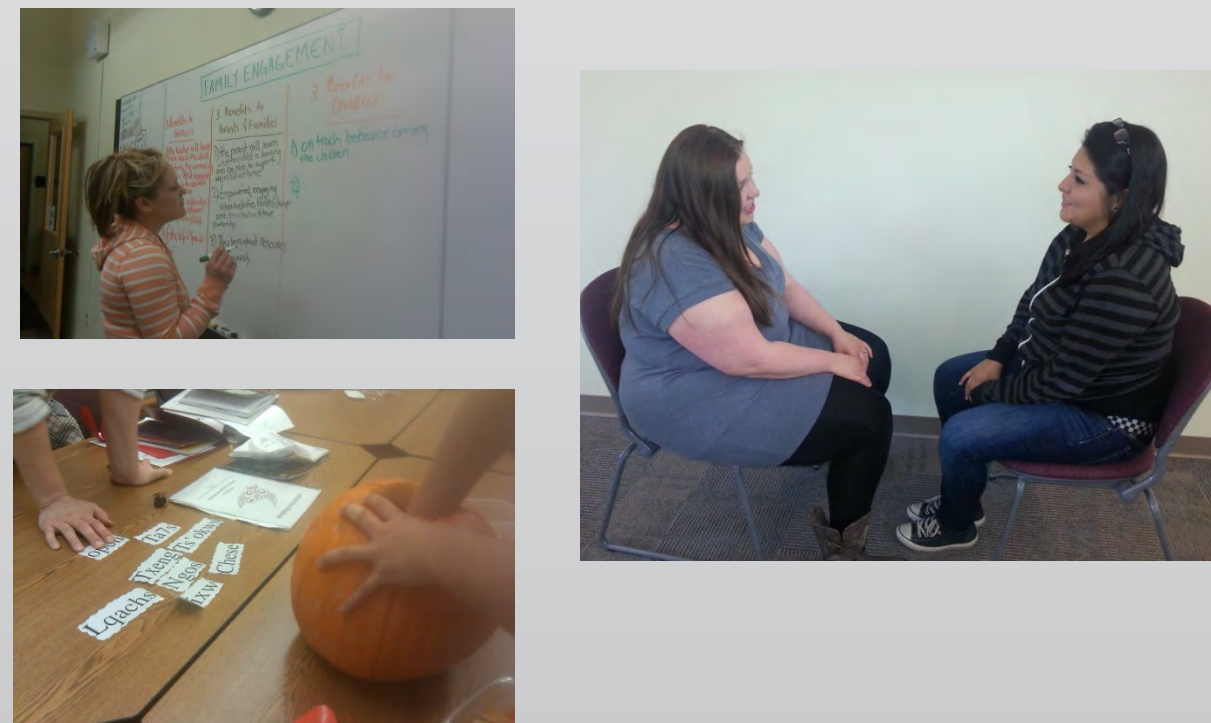


Findings—Promising Practices

Domain 1 - Improve Cognitive & Non-Cognitive Development
Literacy & Children's Social - Emotional Wellbeing



Domain 2 - Improve Early Childhood Teacher Quality
Coursework Coupled with Job Embedded Professional Development / Coaching and Peer-to-Peer Emotional Support



Domain 3 - Bridge Early Childhood with K-3 Education
Professional Learning Communities



Findings—Promising Practices

Domain 4 - Integrate Tribal Language and Culture
Lummi Language Literacy Kits Under Development



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Domain 5 -Empower Families and Communities
"Building Emotional Understanding" & Parent Focus Groups



Discussion

Importance of our Work

- Strengthening Native Voice
- Fostering Receptiveness
- Building Relational Reciprocity
- Creating Vertical and Horizontal Alignment
- Community Healing



Discussion

Implications for larger policy

- Lummi teachers and children reclaiming Native language
- Tribal children benefiting from caregivers (parents, families, & teachers) using teaching & listening tools.
- Creating early learning programs at Lummi as demonstration sites to serve as model for other early learning programs



A Bright Future in ECE at Lummi

Sustainability

- Leadership invested and participating
- Teachers support one another across grades and buildings
- Continuation of Sacred Little Ones Coordinating Team
- Ongoing faculty research and student action research
- Families fully engaged in strengthening early care and education



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