

# Family Information Session One



## Introduction to the Cultural Curriculum

This culturally appropriate Head Start curriculum is designed to instill in Native American children a comprehensive understanding of their place within Creation and a fundamental sense of belonging to their traditional land base. Each of the eight lesson sets is built around an element of life and creation, including Creation itself, Mother Earth, Fire, Water, Air, Plants, Animals and, the Stars. The lessons include materials lists, sample Native American stories, discussion questions, art activities, nature walks, music and movement, and vocabulary words.

## How the Lessons Are Taught

Each of the eight lessons will be introduced each month and carried out as long as the children are expressing interest and curiosity in the topic. Each lesson begins with soothing music, such as Native American flute music, to begin calming the children and directing them to Circle Time where the teacher reads them a story. Questions have been developed from each of the stories and should be discussed in a large or small group setting right after the story has been read. A set of the questions is provided for you.

As the children work on various hands-on art activities throughout the lessons, they are creating one large art project. The lessons are designed to build upon one another and at the end the students will have created a large model of Mother Earth and Creation as seen through their eyes. This mural will include representations of the land, water, fire, creation, air, plants, and stars to give the students a better understanding about how creation works together to survive.

Vocabulary words are an important part of this curriculum. Basic concepts and words have been chosen as a way to encourage exposing children to their native languages. Vocabulary words in each chapter were taken from the sample stories in the lessons. The vocabulary words for each lesson are provided for you.

***Note: Please take the time to read through each lesson and ask questions, especially about how you can help reinforce each lesson at home. This is also an opportunity for you to gather your own tribal stories and share them with the children as a way to help tailor these lessons to our regional traditions.***