

Elders are essential for success

Aboriginal Head Start centres are becoming the new village for the ever-increasing numbers of Native people living in urban and off-reserve areas. In this community, parents, families and Elders play an active role in teaching the young children.

The Aboriginal Head Start program has made a huge difference to the self-esteem and school achievement levels of Aboriginal, First Nations and Métis children.

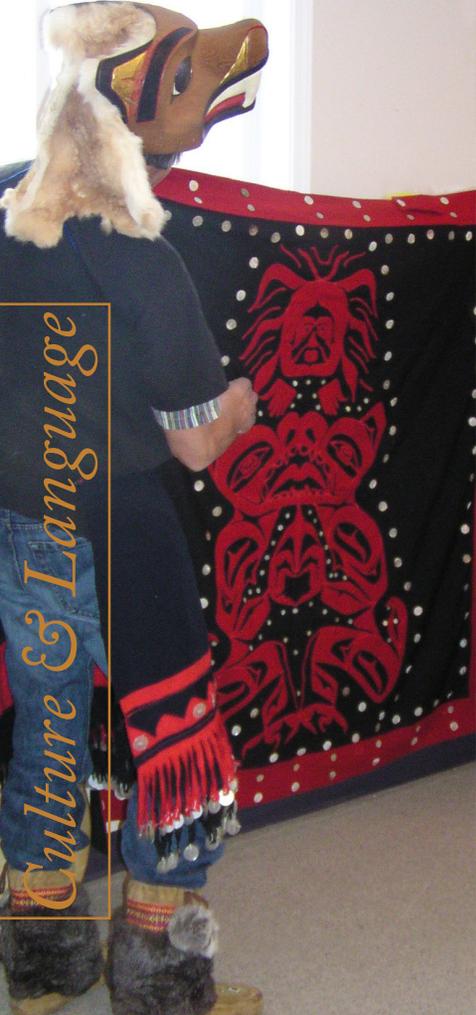
Elders provide a cultural experience for the whole community. They often become surrogate grandparents for children who live far from their relatives. Many Elders say the Head Start centre is their second home.

Criminal Record Checks are required for all volunteers (including Elders) who work in licensed AHS preschools.

Elders are involved in all aspects of the program, such as: classroom activities, celebrations and feasts, and planning cultural events and field trips.



Aboriginal Head Start sites in BC



Culture & Language



Culture and Language
Elders bring storytelling, drumming, dancing, Native language, songs, prayers, crafts, regalia and more.



Education and School Readiness
Elders help children learn to be orderly and to sit quietly in Circle, to listen and speak respectfully.



Health Promotion
Elders teach about sacred plants, smudging and purifying our bodies and spirits, and tell stories about safety and getting along with others.



Nutrition
Elders talk about traditional foods, make bannock, and share meals with the children and families.



Social Support
Elders are important advisors to staff and parents at the preschools. They bring the children to sing and meet members of their Elders Group.



Parent and Family Involvement
Elders sometimes teach language and culture at Parent Advisory Council meetings so the parents can support their children's learning at home.

Aboriginal Head Start gives back what Residential School took away.



Healing & Respect

The Six Components



The children of today
are the Elders of tomorrow



The Gift of the Elders



Aboriginal Head Start program near you:



www.ahsabc.com

Aboriginal Head Start
Programs in British Columbia