Infusing Community Culture into Picture Storybooks: Building Literacy
American Indian College Fund & W.K. Kellogg

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Demographics – Menominee Indian Reservation
• 234,000 acre reservation; 95% forest land
• Located on ancestral lands for past 5,000 years
• Four schools: Head Start; Menominee Indian School District K-12; Menominee Tribal School K-8; College of Menominee Nation
• Children at Risk

Sacred Little Ones- We Will Make a Path for Our Children
Cognitive, Literacy, Language Skills:
• Our program focuses on making oral language, literature, and culture central to daily activities & instruction.
• We try to infuse language and culturally relevant literature and language across the curriculum in purposeful ways to honor Menominee traditions and oral literacy.
Sacred Little Ones- We Will Make a Path for Our Children

- Menominee stories were revised to better fit the age of the children and to create picture storybooks.

- 20 stories were developed and published that infused the Menominee language into the stories.

- EDU 315 Cultural Images & EDU 299 Special Topics were offered to teachers on the reservation along with CMN preservice teacher.

- Teachers learned to appreciate multicultural literature.

- Teachers were taught how to illustrate stories for the picture storybooks format.

Objective: Creating songs that incorporate dual language, music, and physical movement for a multisensory experience.

Students created lesson plans that incorporated movement.

CMN provides literacy and language/culture coaching that engages and supports teachers and the school community in becoming more reflective, knowledgeable, and skillful with in their professional practice so all students learn.

EDU 315 & EDU 299 emphasized the use of literature in the classroom.

Certified teachers in the courses mentored the preservice & Head Start teachers.
Sacred Little Ones - We Will Make a Path for Our Children

• CMN expected to develop student projects and activities in upper level division courses to support the project.
• 15 lesson plans have been developed to date that support the 20 books that have been published.

Sample Stories

Sample Stories – collage/applique
Sample Stories

Sample Stories & SLOI Website

Activity

- We will divide into groups.
- Please review the lesson plan for Menominee Spring.
- Additional Activities: What other activities can parents use to foster further development? Try to find at least two ways to extend the lesson plan.
- Each group will share.