

ABORIGINAL

Celebrating Aboriginal Children and Culture

The Best Start Network is pleased to present this special pullout section dedicated to Aboriginal culture.

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INSIDE: Understanding your child's learning style is important for a parent to know, especially when parents advocate for their child and assist teachers to meet their child's optimal learning process.

EMBRACING THE FUTURE PRESERVING THE PAST



Submitted by: Sherry Lewis, Manager - Community Programs, Brantford Native Housing, and Sara VanEvery, Aboriginal Child Development Coordinator; brantfordnativehousing.com

As educators we have been taught how to teach children what they need to know in order to succeed in life. We have been told that we have to teach in a certain way, so that children will understand and use what they have been taught. There are three (3) generally accepted learning and teaching styles: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile. Learning style is a term used to describe an individual's natural or habitual pattern of acquiring and processing information in learning situations. Understanding your child's learning style is important for a parent to know, especially when parents advocate for their child and assist teachers to meet their child's optimal learning process.

Visual learners learn by seeing and are more likely to remember faces instead of names, like to read, and have a good imagination. Visual learners are good at spelling, need quiet study time, like colour and fashion, dream in colour and understand/like charts, and are good with sign language.

Auditory learners learn best by hearing what is being said and can sit and listen to stories when a teacher or parent is telling them one. They enjoy asking questions and having discussions about what they're learning and they enjoy listening to music and singing songs. Auditory learners like to read to themselves out loud, are not afraid to speak up in class, like oral reports, remember names, notice sound effects in movies, enjoy music, and are good with grammar and foreign languages.



models, are involved with martial arts or dance, and are fidgety during lectures.

How Aboriginal Children Learn and View the World

Teachers and child care providers understand that not every child learns the same way. They try their very best to accommodate each child's specific learning needs.

Historical practices of passing on important teachings to the individual, family, community, and nation are done using Kinesthetic teaching styles. Young ones are introduced to Mother Earth and all creation through ceremonies, songs, and dance.

Quite often decision making was based on the laws of nature and very little on the laws of human beings, until recently. When it was time for our young ones to learn about hunting, for example, young boys joined in and were given simple duties to participate in an annual hunt. Activities included cleansing of the hunter's body to eliminate smells that frighten wild game away, saying the words to thank the wild game for giving themselves as food, preparing the hunting weapons, tracking wild game, and skinning the meat obtained from a successful hunting trip and sharing it with the community. Young girls were shown how to find wild berries or medicines, learned where specific plants could be found, taught to thank the plant life for being available to feed or heal the people, and shown how to prepare the food or medicines for themselves, or to share with their family, the community, or the nation.

Generally speaking, the majority of Aboriginal children are Kinesthetic learners mainly due to the Kinesthetic teaching styles that have been used for thousands of years and through the connection to the land where the teachings originated. Aboriginal children learn best through hands on teachings from their parents, grandparents, and other family members. Today, Aboriginal children look to child care providers and teachers to assist with teachings to improve their ability to succeed in the non-Aboriginal world.

They also follow spoken direction well, find it hard to keep quiet for long periods of time, enjoy acting or being on stage, and are good in study groups.

Kinesthetic learners (also known as tactile learners) learn best by doing and being involved in what is being taught. They enjoy being a part of their learning. Kinesthetic learners are good at sports, can't sit still for long, are not great at spelling, do not have great handwriting, like science labs, study with loud music, like adventure books/movies, like role playing, take breaks when studying, build

Aboriginal children learn best through hands-on teachings from parents, grandparents, and family members.

Traditional Recipes

Stuffed Bannock

Submitted by: Sara VanEvery, Aboriginal Child Development Coordinator, Brantford Native Housing, brantfordnativehousing.com

You will need:

large bowl; large frying pan; cookie sheet; large spoon; paring knife

Filling:

1 lb ground meat (beef or venison)
3 large potatoes
2 large carrots
2 celery stalks
1 medium onion
Half a package of taco seasoning
1 tsp garlic powder
½ tsp each salt and pepper
Barbeque sauce, preferably original or garlic

Brown meat in frying pan and drain fat off. Set meat aside. Peel and dice vegetables into small pieces and simmer in pan with spices. Put meat back in pan and simmer everything together until tender. Add barbeque sauce and let sit until cool. (For quicker cooking time on the potatoes, cook them in the microwave while peeling and chopping the other vegetables.)

Bannock:

5 cups flour
5 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
1 cup beef drippings or lard (melted)
1½ cups lukewarm water

In large bowl, mix dry ingredients together and add wet, stirring until sticky. Spray top of dough with vegetable oil to make handling easier. Scoop out small piece of dough the size of a tennis ball. Flatten with a rolling pin, and put 2 tbsp of meat mixture (or fill to your desire) into dough and wrap. Place on cookie sheet and continue until mixture is used up. Bake at 425°F for 15 to 20 minutes until golden brown. Cool and enjoy!!

