



Parenting Programs and Prevention of Tribal Youth Delinquency

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Facilitators and Presenters



Teresa Nord,
TYRC Tribal
Youth Program
TA Specialist



**Ethleen Iron
Cloud-Two
Dogs,** TYRC
Tribal Youth
Program Manager



**Jordan
Gibson,** TYRC
Tribal Youth
Program TA
Specialist



**Eileen Iron
Cloud,**
Grandparent



**Nohealani
Behler,**
Founder of
Mindful Keiki,
Parent





Presentation Summary

Tribal Youth programs have services for youth and families that are intended to prevent and address youth involvement in the justice system. The Tribally-focused parenting programs information is intended to expand the capacity of parents/families to prevent youth/juvenile delinquency.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Increase knowledge on parenting programs, training and resources that are Indigenous-based and/or focused on Tribal families' prevention of youth/juvenile delinquency
- Learn from an Indigenous Parent and Grandparent who will share Indigenous based parenting and grandparenting strategies to support tribal youth serving entities - such as tribal youth programs, juvenile justice organizations, and schools - with information on family engagement as a prevention strategy for youth involvement in the justice system



How Parenting Connects to Youth Justice Involvement

- Including extended family and relatives in youth justice programming promotes the importance of kinship and builds support for youth (McKay et al, 2014)
- There is a strong link between parent involvement and youth delinquency rates (McKay et al, 2014)
- Monitoring by parents/caregivers protects against juvenile recidivism (LaBerge et al, 2022)
- Youth arrest has shown to have significant negative impact on the transition to adulthood and socioeconomic status (Sittner & Estes, 2023)
- Juvenile Delinquency is related to “criminalization of traumatic responses” (Rolnick & Sekaquaptewa, 2022)



Grandparenting Tribal Youth: An Elder's Perspective on Preventing Youth Delinquency





Parenting Native Youth: A Parent's Perspective on Protection and Prevention of Youth Delinquency



Hawaiian Parenting Strategies

- 'Ohana (Family) as the Center of Life:
- Aloha Love, Compassion, and Respect):
- Kuleana (Responsibility and Duty)
- Ho'omālama (Nurturing and Care)
- Cultural Education and Storytelling
- Kuleana to the 'Aina (Land) and Kūpuna (Ancestors)
- 'Ike (Knowledge and Wisdom)
- Maika'i (Goodness, Morality, and Social Responsibility)
- Ho'oponopono (Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation)
- Spiritual Connection (Pono)

Core Indigenous Parenting Strategies

- **Respect for the Child's Autonomy**

- Children are seen as spiritual beings with their own purpose.
- Adults act as guides, not controllers.
- Discipline is often non-punitive, relying on modeling behavior and storytelling.

- **Intergenerational Learning**

- Elders play a key role in teaching language, values, and life skills.
- Learning is oral and experiential, often involving stories, ceremonies, and time on the land.



- **Community-Based Parenting**

- The idea of "it takes a village to raise a child" is central.
- Multiple caregivers (aunties, uncles, grandparents) are involved

- **Spiritual and Cultural Connection**

- Teaching children about their language, ceremonies, and traditional knowledge.
- Strong emphasis on identity, pride, and connection to ancestors.

- **Land-Based Education**

- Teaching survival skills, traditional food gathering, and environmental stewardship.
- Nature is often seen as a classroom and a healer

Resources & Programs

Books and Toolkits

- **"Sacred Little Ones" (W.K. Kellogg Foundation)** – A project supporting Native early childhood education.
- **"The Honoring Our Strengths" Framework (Canada)** – Integrates Indigenous knowledge in mental health and parenting.
- **"Forever Loved: Exposing the Hidden Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada"** – Though not directly a parenting manual, it offers context around safety, identity, and resilience.

Programs & Organizations

- **Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA)** – Offers culturally grounded fatherhood and parenting programs like "Fatherhood is Sacred, Motherhood is Sacred."
- **The Indigenous Parent Program (IPP)** – Various tribal councils offer local support and workshops on parenting and traditional knowledge.
- **First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)** – Offers mental health and parenting support for First Nations families in British Columbia.
- **Positive Indian Parenting** - An 8 to 10 week program offered by National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA),

Additional Online Resources



- . **StrongHearts Native Helpline** – Emotional and parenting support for Native families.
- . **Native Wellness Institute** – Promotes the well-being of Indigenous people through training and tribally-grounded content.
- . **Idle No More's Education Resources** – Offers educational materials for families and parents on tribal knowledge.



QUESTIONS/ DISCUSSION

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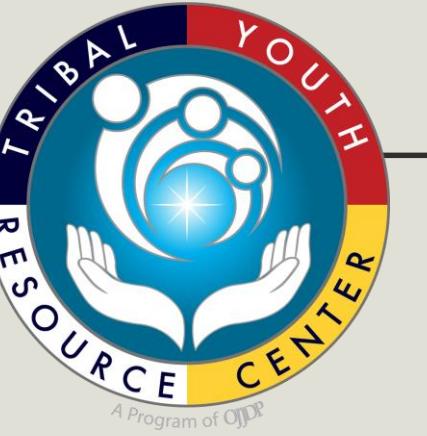
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Contact Us

TRIBAL YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER

8229 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 201
West Hollywood, CA 90046

 (323) 650-5467 Fax (323) 650-8149

WWW.TRIBALYOUTH.ORG

