

Early Childhood Education Inuit Language and Culture Funding Criteria and Guidelines

The goal of Early Childhood Education Inuit Language and Culture¹ funding is to allow local District Education Authorities (DEA's) to provide an early childhood education program for Language and Culture for children ages 0-6 years old.

There are two ways that DEA's can provide an early childhood education program for Language and Culture:

1. A DEA can create and operate its own early childhood education program – this could be a language nest, a lending library, a parent and tot group, etc.; OR
2. A DEA can support an existing early childhood program through funding, staffing or providing resources – this could be a daycare, preschool, language nest, parent and tot group, library program, etc.

The DEA may choose to do either or both of these; it is up to each DEA to decide what will work best for their community.

Please Note: If your DEA is choosing to support an existing Early Childhood Education Program through funding, staffing or providing resources, then a budget from the program must first be **approved by your DEA before submission to the Department**. Additionally, reporting on supporting an existing Early Childhood Education program remains the DEA's responsibility.

Guidelines for Proposals:

- Community Initiatives for programs that can be accessed by and for children ages 0-6 year of old and their families.
- Enhancing activities and instruction through resource development
- Enhancing Inuit language and culture through Family Events
- Enhancing activities and instruction with Elders and/or Cultural Experts
 - a. Elders honorarium – maximum of \$75/half day (up to 4 hours)
 - b. Elders honorarium – maximum of \$150/full day (more than 4 hours)
 - c. Wages for teachers/coordinators who are considered language and cultural experts – maximum of \$25/hour
 - d. Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs) (Maximum of 12%)





Suggested Programs Ideas:

- Invite/hire local well-known Elders and/or cultural experts to assist with instruction of Inuit language and culture activities such as:
 - Enhancing vocabulary and terminology through naming and identifying
 - Demonstrating about life on the land (cutting up fish, seals, etc)
 - Traditional games, throat singing, drum dancing and traditional songs and celebrations (example - Return of the Sun)
 - Storytelling and oral traditions

¹ For programs falling under the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN), this reference is modified to refer to promotion of French language and francophone culture.

- Seasonal activities such as berry picking
- Arts and crafts especially traditional ones such as sewing, beading, etc.
- Picnics outside with elder/cultural experts making bannock
- Purchase or create traditional toys and/or teaching materials or props for use in the programming such as:
 - Rent or purchase audio or video recording equipment to record activities led by Elders and/or cultural experts – creating videos, CDs, or collections of pictures that can be used as resources,
 - Create instructional videos or CDs,
 - Skins (seal, caribou, muskox, etc.)
 - Books reflecting Inuit language and/or culture
 - Music and/or instruments that promotes Inuit language and/or culture
 - Language and/or culturally-relevant materials, dolls, bone games, seal or caribou skin balls,
 - Child sized kamotiqs, tents, skin scraping board, ulu, scrapper, sharpener, tasiqut, inniqvik, needles, thimbles, ropes, knives, hooks, kakivak, seal floater, harpoon, qauliu, bird catcher, qulliq, sling, seal skin buckets, bone/tool for clam digging, dog harness, whip, bow and arrow, tool bag for men/women, amautiqs, silapas, parkas, kamiks, mitts, traditional, jewellery etc.
 - Hire Elders/cultural experts to make them.
- Purchase nutritious food including country food as per the Nunavut Food Guide recommendations to teach about traditional food and healthy living habits.
- Develop a resource library for parents to borrow and use in their home that could include:
 - Parenting resources, traditional resources for children, books.
 - Hire translators to translate resources or other materials into Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, or French. Parents can use these resources to learn more about activities that help young children gain strong language skills.
 - Develop kits with learning materials that reflect Inuit language and/or culture for the resource library. The kits should include activities that help develop skills in literacy, math, social, physical and etc.
- Invite all families with young children in the community (especially those who are not attending the early childhood education programs) to a family fun day that incorporates ideas such as:
 - Inuit language and/or culture community scavenger hunt
 - Literacy such as book making, bingo, puzzles, matching games, card games, etc.
 - Set up activities to provide the opportunity for older children to play with younger children and act as role models

For more information, please contact:

 Early Learning and Child Care, Department of Education, P.O. Box 1000, Stn 920 Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0	 (867) 975-4861, (867)975-4866  (867) 975-7924  ECLPC@gov.nu.ca
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