

# Protective Factors in Action from a Multi- Cultural Perspective

*May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022*



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# Maryland Family Network Use and Integration of Protective Factors

**Rochetta Gordon  
and  
Melanie Martin**

**May 17, 2022**

CENTER FOR THE STUDY  
OF SOCIAL POLICY'S

# strengthening families™

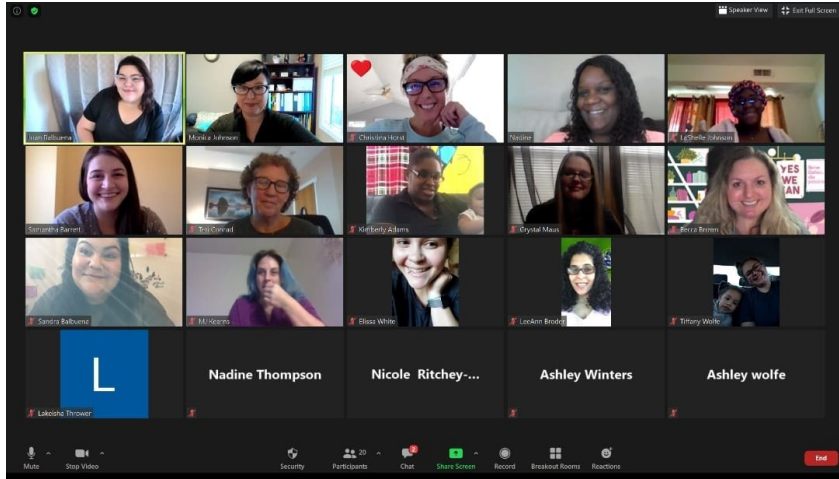
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

## Strengthening Families Protective Factors

- 🎯 Parental Resilience
- 🎯 Concrete Support in Time of Need
- 🎯 Social Connections
- 🎯 Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- 🎯 Social and Emotional Competence of Children

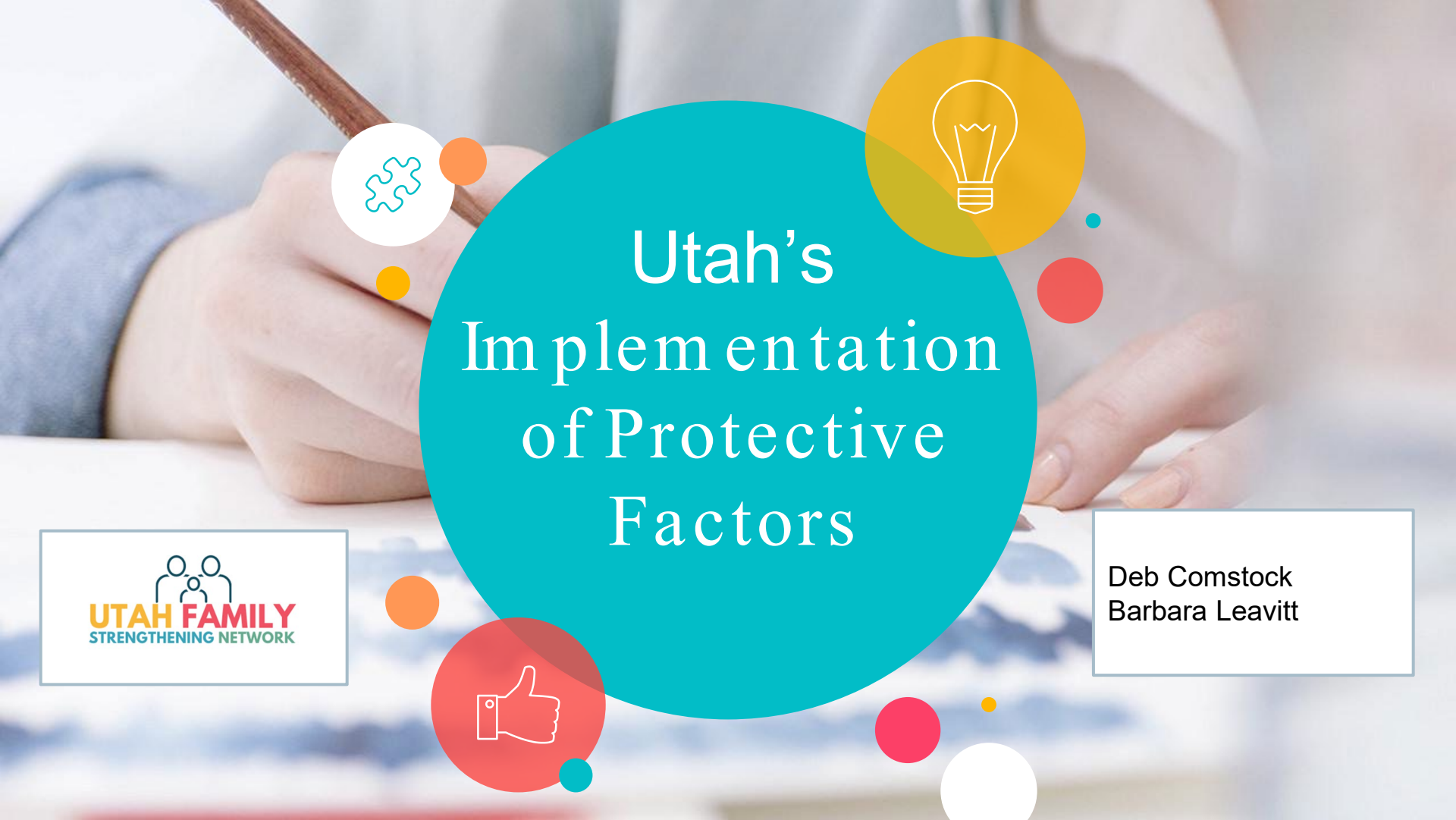
<b>FSC Core Services</b>	<b>Strengthening Families Protective Factors</b>
<b>Self Sufficiency Programming</b>	Parental Resilience, Concrete Support in Times of Need, Social Connections
<b>Parent Education</b>	Parental Resilience, Knowledge of Parenting & CD, Social Connections, Social and Emotional Competence of Children
<b>Infant-Toddler Program</b>	Parental Resilience, Knowledge of Parenting and CD, Social & Emotional Competence of Children
<b>Service Coordination</b>	Parental Resilience, Concrete Support in Times of Need, Social Connections
<b>Health Education</b>	Parental Resilience, Concrete Support in Times of Need, Knowledge of Parenting and CD, Social & Emotional Competence of Children
<b>Home Visiting</b>	Parental Resilience, Concrete Support in Times of Need, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and CD, Social & Emotional Competence of Children
<b>Participant (Parent) Support and Involvement</b>	Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting, and CD
<b>Outreach, Collaboration, and Resource Development</b>	Parental Resilience, Concrete Support in Times of Need, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and CD, Social & Emotional Competence of Children

# The Parent Café Experience



- ▶ The goal is to create an intimate environment where parents, caregivers and community members can share and support each other as a strategy for strengthening families.
- ▶ Parent Cafés are an opportunity to partner with parents to help keep their families strong.
- ▶ Highly sustainable with training reinforcement, institutional support, and a commitment to an approach that engages and affirms parents as leaders
- ▶ An effective family engagement tool,
- ▶ Parent Cafés offer structured, meaningful conversations related to the five research-informed Protective Factors.





# Utah's Implementation of Protective Factors



**UTAH FAMILY**  
STRENGTHENING NETWORK

Deb Comstock  
Barbara Leavitt



# Presenters



Deb Comstock



Barbara Leavitt



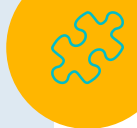


## Training Objectives

Protective Factors Network, Training  
Protective Factors in Rural Setting



Who are we?





# Thinking Upstream

Prevention  
Science





The Protective  
Factor approach is  
most effective  
when integrated  
into existing  
practice.

Research-based  
and evidence  
informed

Small but  
significant  
changes

Applicable  
to many  
settings

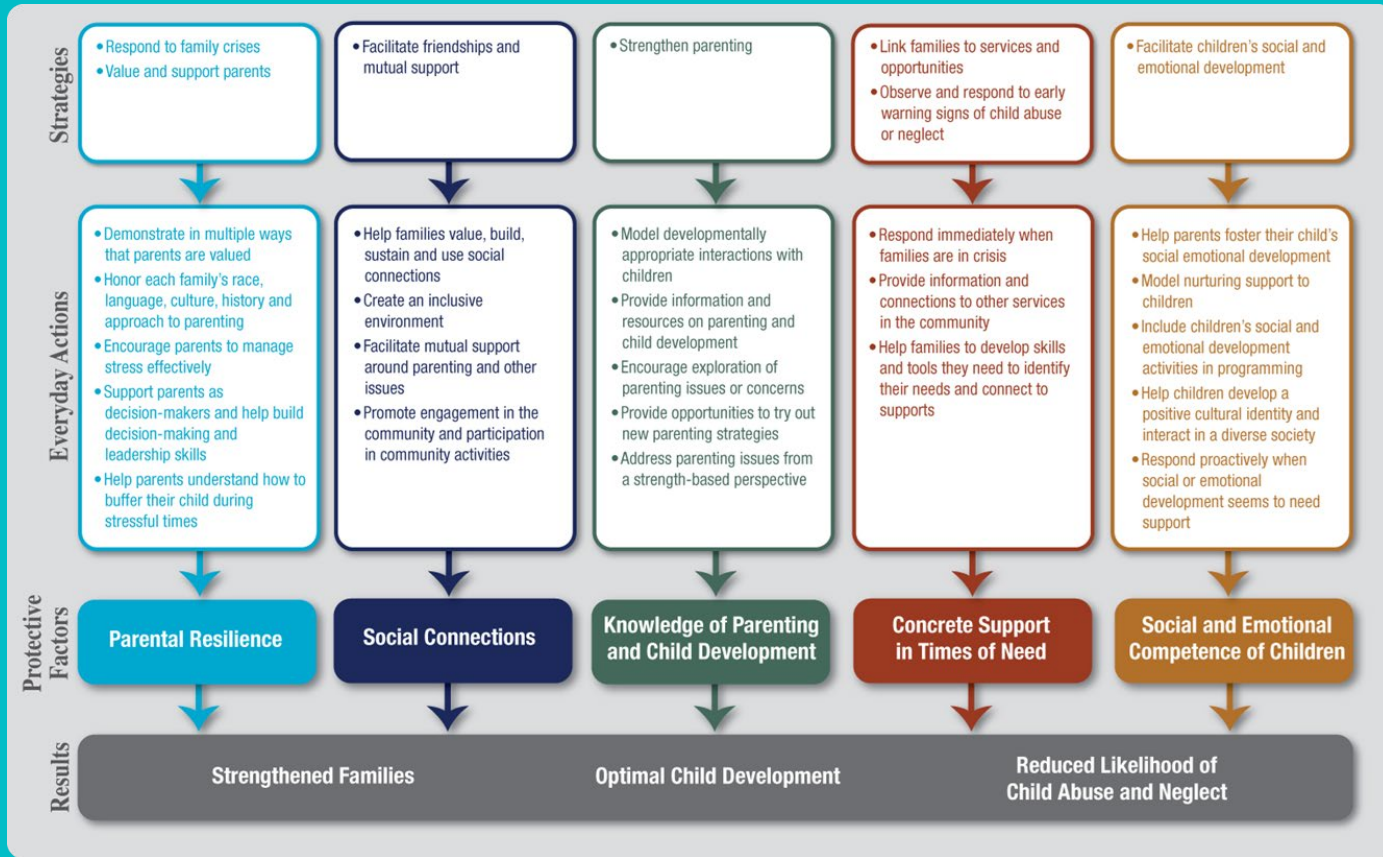
Facilitates  
cross-sector  
work

# The 5 Protective Factors

- Concrete Supports in Times of Need
- Knowledge of Development
- Positive Social Connections
- Resilience
- Cognitive and Social-Emotional Competence

## Family Language

- *Parent know where to turn for help*
- *Parents know how children grow and learn*
- *Parents have friends*
- *Parents can bounce back*
- *Children learn to handle feelings*





EVERY DAY  
ACTIONS  
to build  
Concrete Supports

- *I can recognize when my family is in crisis and can ask for help*
- *I have others I can trust to tell me when I am in crisis, and I don't recognize it*
- *I know my community and who my partners for support are*
- *I have someone to talk to about what I am worried about*





Protective Factor:  
Knowledge of  
Child  
Development

- *I get to see others handle situations*
- *I might be a better parent than I thought*
- *A place where I can get information*
- *I can ask hard questions that I would not ask my own parents or other people*
- *I can share what I have practiced*
- *I'm a good parent, I get to talk about what I am doing and can be told that I am doing well*







Protective Factor:  
**Social  
Connections**

- *I make friends that support me in the good things I am doing?*
- *This is a place where it is safe, and I feel valued*
- *My parenting isn't judged, and I get to see other parents that I can learn from*
- *Its safe and supportive here, FUN and I am needed in my community*





## EVERY DAY ACTIONS to build Parental Resilience

- *I feel needed and respected*
- *My background/history matters*
- *When my life is unmanageable, I have tools to help me feel safe and in control*
- *I am validated as the leader of my family*
- *When things are rough, I can protect my children from the full effects*





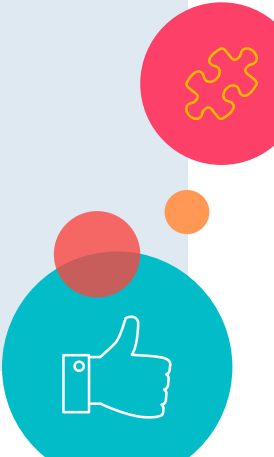
## EVERY DAY ACTIONS to build Social Emotional Competence of Children

- I want my child to fit in, If I know how to fit in, I can help my child better
- I see others being respectful of me and my child
- My kids are having fun while they learn
- They really love coming to a place where that can happen
- My background and that of my kids si respected and they feel comfortable around kids and people from other backgrounds
- I know where to turn for help when my kids are struggling emotionally





South Franklin Community Center





Help Me Grow Utah



## Rural Community in Colorado City, Utah



Colorado City is a city of 4,900 people straddling the Utah/Arizona border.

While much of the City is on the Arizona side, the Utah portion is known as Hildale.

This portion has the largest and best-known polygamist Community in the United States.



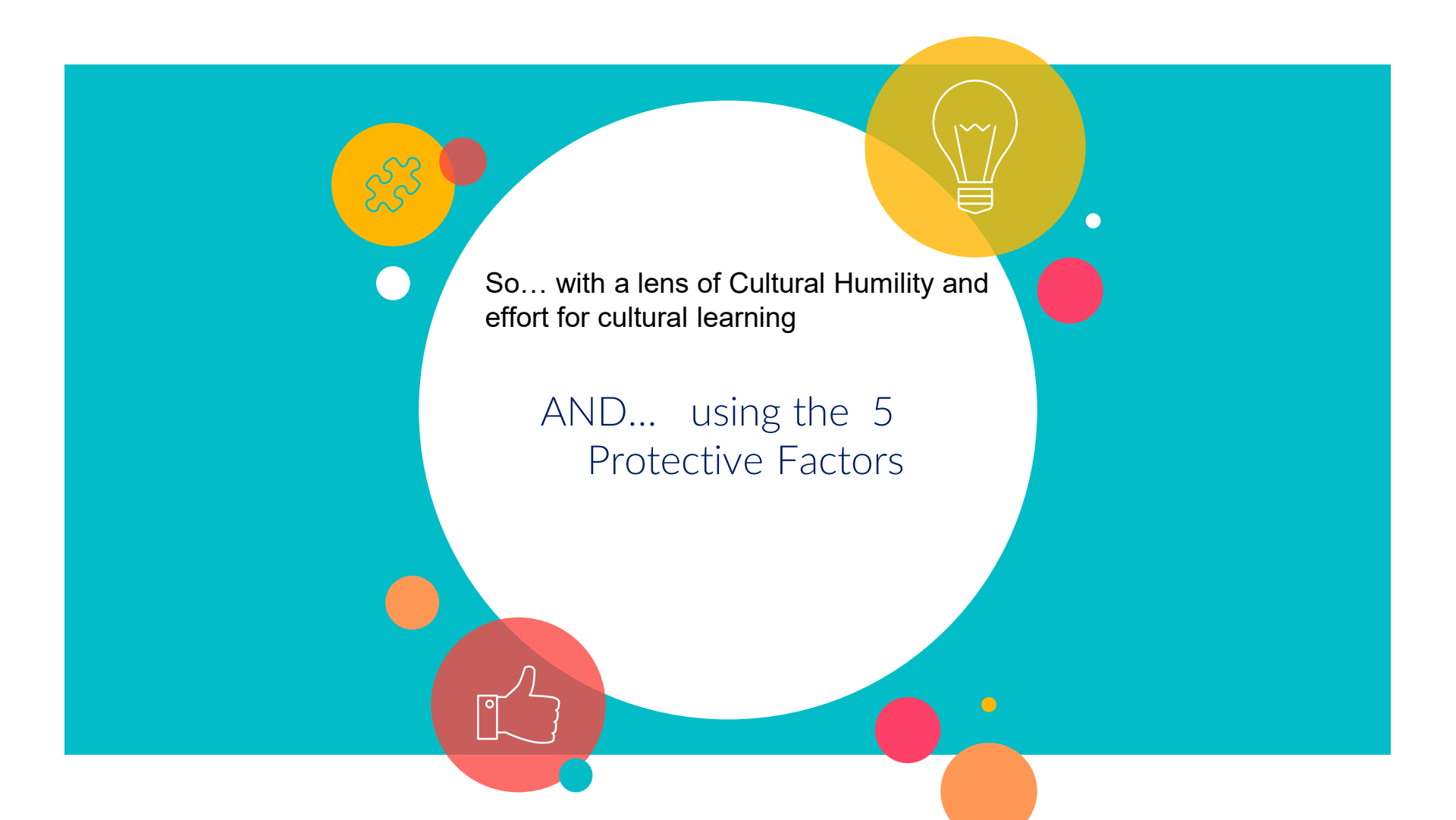
## Their Mission

- To connect individuals and families, primarily those from
- polygamist cultures with tools and resources for
- generational success

It is important to note that they serve all families

- Advocacy Culturally sensitive for individuals and families unique to that community
- Basic Needs Food, clothing, hygiene
- Counseling and Support Groups
- Education/training on life skills, financial literacy, sewing, health, nutrition, and relationships
- Training also for other nonprofit professionals, law enforcement and government agencies
- Employment support
- Family Resource Facilitators
- Housing
- Crisis intervention





So... with a lens of Cultural Humility and  
effort for cultural learning

AND... using the 5  
Protective Factors

## Parental Resilience

- My parenting can be the focus of what I want support on
- My culture is respected
- I can identify what is stressful for me in my parenting and not have others judge my lifestyle choice
- I can make the decisions on where I seek help for my children
- Know that there is a history of secrecy, abuse that jeopardizes recognizing a healthy family relationship in this culture

# Social Connections

- There are safe opportunities for me and my family to connect with other families who are of this community and those who are not
- The fundamentalist faith is used as a cornerstone of some social connections but there are also opportunities for families who do not identify with fundamentalist practices( but are also plural families)
- to participate in social events, holidays and community celebrations
- Because we are a small community, people here know each other well and we celebrate everything and every reason to get together.
- There are peer support groups that feel safe and easy to access

# Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development



Parenting curriculum is sent ahead of time to the identified part of the community wanting to support the parent group. That way participants can review ensure culture sensitivity

Listen to me as I work out the challenges of parenting all the children in my family

The people that I talk to recognize how important the spiritual aspect spiritual responsibility I have in parenting my children

Help recognize when there is abuse in a plural family situation and also, when there is not abuse



## Concrete Support In Time of Need

- Use a Crisis to Thriving Scale with Families
- If I need emergency food, I know where to go
- There was support in helping to find a job
- I have an advocate that helped me get out of a domestic violence situation
- Medical clinic support
- My FRF helped me connect with another agency that I wasn't sure would respect my family life choice



Q&A:



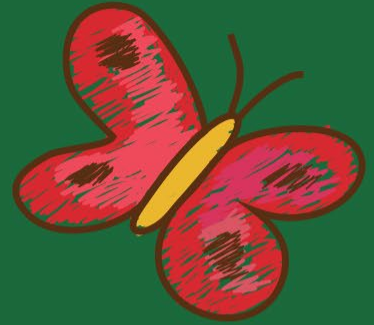


Thank You!

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# OUR CULTURE PROTECTS US



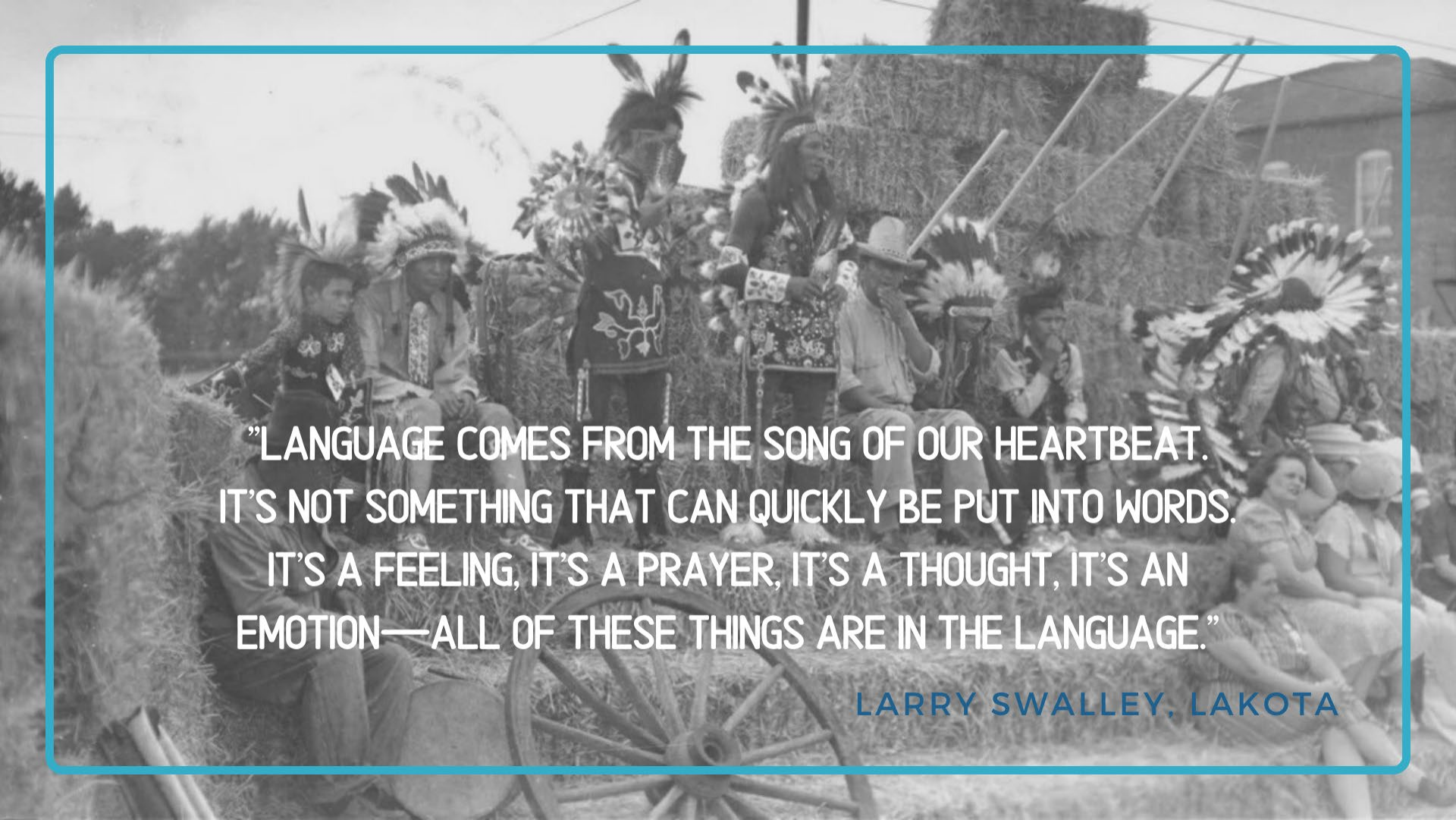
HONORING CULTURE TO BUILD STRONG,  
RESILIENT FAMILIES ACROSS GENERATIONS

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JOHANNA THOMAS, KICKAPOO TRIBE IN KANSAS

JENNY FLINDERS, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS





"LANGUAGE COMES FROM THE SONG OF OUR HEARTBEAT.  
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN QUICKLY BE PUT INTO WORDS.  
IT'S A FEELING, IT'S A PRAYER, IT'S A THOUGHT, IT'S AN  
EMOTION—ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE IN THE LANGUAGE."

LARRY SWALLEY, LAKOTA

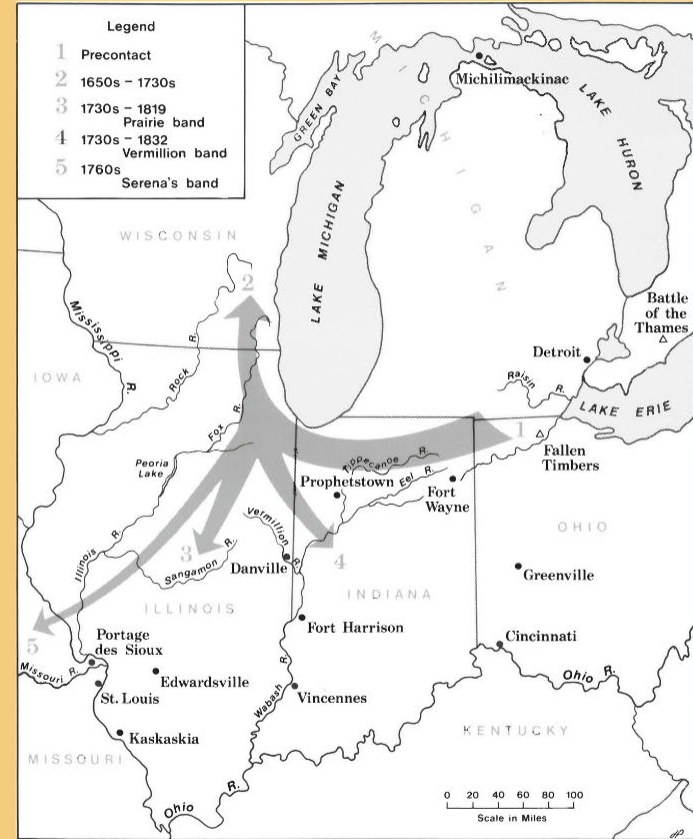
# THE KICKAPOO TRIBE IN KANSAS

ORIGINALLY FROM THE GREAT LAKES REGION, THE KICKAPOO WERE FORCED TO RELOCATE TO WISCONSIN, ILLINOIS, INDIANA/OHIO, MISSOURI, AND ULTIMATELY OUR CURRENT HOME IN KANSAS BEFORE OFFICIALLY SPLITTING INTO THREE TRIBES:

THE KICKAPOO TRIBE IN KANSAS

THE KICKAPOO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

THE KICKAPOO TRADITIONAL TRIBE OF TEXAS  
(MEXICO)



# OUR KICKAPOO LANGUAGE

THE KICKAPOO LANGUAGE HAS LARGELY BEEN LOST IN OUR KANSAS COMMUNITY.

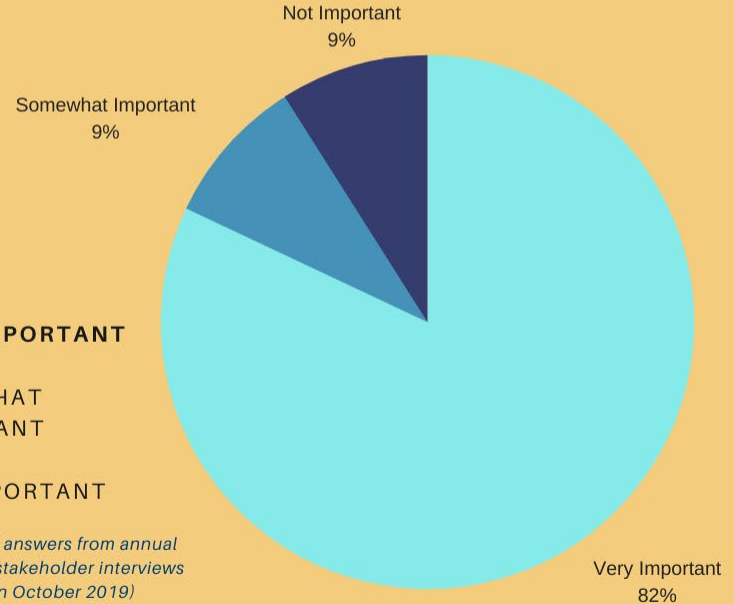
TODAY, OUT OF 1,600 ENROLLED MEMBERS (APX. 300-400 OF WHICH LIVE ON OUR RESERVATION), THE KICKAPOO TRIBE IN KANSAS HAS **TWO SEMI-FLUENT LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS, AND NO FLUENT SPEAKERS.**

WE ASKED OUR COMMUNITY HOW IMPORTANT THEY THINK IT IS FOR KIDS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO LEARN THE KICKAPOO LANGUAGE:

"IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.  
IT'S OUR IDENTITY—THE  
ONE THING THAT CANNOT  
BE TAKEN FROM US."

- VERY IMPORTANT
- SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
- NOT IMPORTANT

*(aggregated answers from annual community stakeholder interviews conducted in October 2019)*



## OUR LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION STRATEGY:

### EARLY LITERACY

board books, flash cards,  
developmental toys, family  
albums and stories

### TRADITIONAL PLAY

team sports, exploring,  
foraging and identification,  
outdoor passports

### COMMUNITY RESOURCES

card decks, mobile apps,  
multimedia resources,  
community conversations

### LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

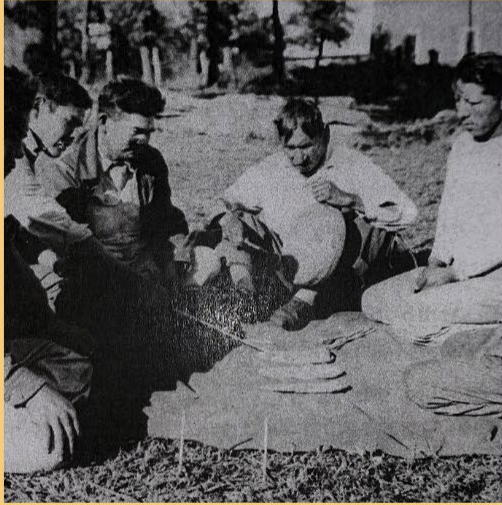
training community  
language instructors in  
play-based learning

## OUR CULTURAL LEARNING RESOURCES:

### BOARD BOOKS & PLAYING CARDS

The Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas developed a deck of cards with Native-owned design group Buffalo Nickel Creative based on Kickapoo language, culture, and traditions, and provided a deck to every tribal member

# GAME PLAY IS A PART OF OUR HISTORY



*eneemakethehiki*  
MOCCASIN GAME



*metekwi pekwaaki*  
STICK BALL



*pekwaakieni*  
TEAM SPORTS

# WHY PLAY GAMES TO LEARN?



ADVENTURE &  
ENGAGEMENT



POSITIVE  
REINFORCEMENT



BUILD PROBLEM  
SOLVING SKILLS



CONNECT WITH  
OUR ANCESTORS



# KICKAPOO PLAYING CARDS

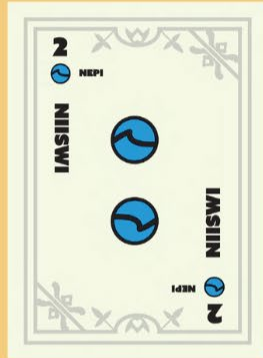
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# CREATIVE PLAY DESIGN ELEMENTS

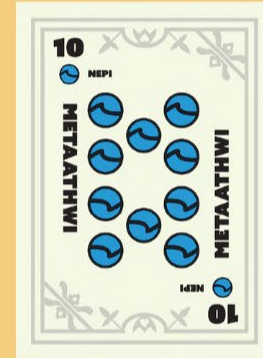
## INTEGRATING CULTURE & LANGUAGE: THE CARD SUITS

*akitaathenani*

**NUMBERS:**



NIISWI → METAATHWI  
(2 - 10)



**SUITS:**



MEHTEKWI



NEPI



ATHENI



PEEMAHKIYETHEKI



# CREATIVE PLAY DESIGN ELEMENTS

INTEGRATING CULTURE & LANGUAGE: THE FACE CARDS



# KICKAPOO BOARD BOOKS

CONNECTING OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS TO OUR OLDER GENERATIONS



# BOARD BOOK DESIGN ELEMENTS

CONNECTING OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS TO OUR HOME



TRADITIONAL  
KICKAPOO  
HOMES

OUR  
KICKAPOO FARM



OUR BUFFALO  
HERD &  
WATERWAYS

# KEPIICHIHI

## KICKAPOO CBCAP PROGRAM

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