A Resource Toolkit for Speech-Language Pathologists Working With Children from Indigenous Communities

Western DLD II Final Project – Carrie Hall

1. Indigenous Identity

This section addresses the diversity of Indigenous peoples throughout Canada. The best way to learn about how Indigenous people wish to identify in your community is to respectfully ask and explore their unique culture.


- **Website**: “Aboriginal Peoples and Communities” - *Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada*
  - An explanation of terminology and links to information on the three different Aboriginal populations → [http://bit.ly/1AbsQTA](http://bit.ly/1AbsQTA)

- **Website**: “Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: Terminology” – *Dragonfly Consulting Services Canada*
  - Another great resource for navigating terminology → [http://bit.ly/2gTC01b](http://bit.ly/2gTC01b)

- **Video**: “Understanding Aboriginal Identity” – *Bear Paw Media*
  - Includes a brief explanation of constitutional terms used to identify Indigenous peoples and touches upon themes of racial discrimination and reclaiming identity. → [http://bit.ly/2gSMlMF](http://bit.ly/2gSMlMF)

- **Video**: “I am Metis” – *Winnipeg Free Press*
  - A short video explaining Metis heritage through statements made by five Individuals from Winnipeg Manitoba → [http://bit.ly/2gTx3Fz](http://bit.ly/2gTx3Fz)

- **Video**: “Celebrate Your Identity” - *Manitoba Metis Federation*
  - An interesting advertisement encouraging individuals to explore their Metis identity

- **Channel**: “Unikkausivut – Sharing our Stories” – *National Film Board of Canada*
  - This is a compilation of over 70 years’ worth of videos highlighting the culture of Intuit Peoples. → [http://bit.ly/2hPtiGS](http://bit.ly/2hPtiGS) Also check out the educator’s guide on how to use these videos in a classroom setting → [http://bit.ly/2hPxiTW](http://bit.ly/2hPxiTW)
2. BUILDING CULTURAL COMPETENCY —

Working in a multicultural context means taking time to understand customs and social practices that may be different from your own. Your service delivery may become more effective when your community’s unique culture is infused into your approach. As always, your community is your best resource for understanding the culture.

- **Website/Documentary:** “The 8th Fire” – Canadian Broadcasting Company
  - An excellent resource for building cultural competency! Includes a four episode documentary hosted by Wab Kinew exploring Indigenous communities across the country, current issues facing these communities and how to revitalize culture in a post-colonial society.

- **Channel:** “Indigenous Peoples of Canada” – National Film Board of Canada

- **Website:** “Indigenous Foundations” – University of British Colombia
  - An informative website developed for students at UBC covering a wide array of topics in Indigenous Studies.

- **Toolkit:** “Working with Aboriginal Peoples: NOSM Health Sciences Competency and Curriculum Implementation Toolkit” – Northern Ontario School of Medicine
  - Students completing health sciences placements in Northern Ontario must include learning goals for cultural competency in their studies. This is the module that guides their learning.

- **Resources:** “Publications” – National Aboriginal Health Organization
  - A list guides and resources for providing culturally competent and culturally safe health care to Indigenous peoples.

- **Presentation:** “cultural Competence in health care for Aboriginal peoples” – Jessica Ball
  - Lecture slides from a presentation on cultural competency given by an expert in Indigenous communication.

- **Online Training:** “Indigenous Cultural Competency Training Program” – Provincial Health Services Authority in BC
  - Information on an online training program for building cultural competency

- **Online Training:** “Indigenous Cultural Safety Training” – Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
  - Another online training program for cultural competency.
3. **The Residential School System and Current Indigenous Issues** –

Learning about the intergenerational trauma imposed upon many Indigenous peoples by the residential school system is extremely important for understanding barriers that exist within Indigenous communities. Some of the following information may trigger discomfort or feelings of anxiety — please practice self-care and seek help if you feel overwhelmed.

- **Video:** “Failing Canada’s First Nations Children” – **16x19 on Global New**
  - A short documentary discussing the difficulties faced by many Indigenous children when they are left with no choice but to leave their home communities to go to school.

  - Outlines the progression of the residential school system from pre-colonial to present day. Discusses the impact of the system on Indigenous peoples including issues of trauma and current healing efforts.

- **Website:** “Where are the Children?” – **Jeff Thomas** (Iroquois artist)
  - An interactive companion website for a previous touring exhibition. A combination of photographs, documents and survival stories covering the progression of the Residential School System.

- **Website:** “Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada”
  - Provides information on the Government’s current efforts in rebuilding Indigenous relationship, promoting knowledge and transparency in the greater public about the history of residential schools and helping survivors heal from trauma.
  - [http://bit.ly/1m7KHxx](http://bit.ly/1m7KHxx)

- **Website:** “Indian Residential Schools” – **Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada**
  - The Government of Canada’s resources website on the Residential School System

- **Journal:** “Indigenous People: reconciliation and healing” – **Visions, BC’s Mental Health and Addictions Journal**
  - A special edition journal specifically addressing the impact of intergenerational trauma left on Indigenous Peoples following the Residential School System. Also includes an excellent glossary defining many terms used in discussing Indigenous issues.
  - [http://bit.ly/2i1BCw1](http://bit.ly/2i1BCw1)

- **Video:** “Justin Trudeau on Indigenous Issues in Canada” – **Vice News**
  - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau discusses current issues affecting Indigenous communities across the country and is questioned on what steps are being made to address crises such as youth suicide epidemics and living conditions.

- **Video:** “Stolen Children” – **Canadian Broadcasting Company**
  - A short documentary where Residential School Survivors share first-hand accounts of their experiences.
The number of Indigenous languages is as diverse as the many communities across the country.

- **Website:** “First Voices”
  - An interactive website where you can explore different Indigenous Language Families across Canada, hear language samples and play games!

- **Documentary:** “Our First Voices” – BC Knowledge Network
  - An excellent documentary about the survival of Indigenous languages in British Colombia.

- **Multi-Media:** “Isuma TV”
  - Various audio-visual media focusing on Aboriginal and Inuit Languages. Check out other media on Indigenous topics on this website!

- **Radio Project:** “Legends” – “Ideas” on CBC radio One
  - An effort to protect the oral traditions of Indigenous languages by dramatizing traditional stories.

- **Website:** “Nish Tales – Walking & Talking with Nanabush” – The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation
  - A fun and interactive website for learning Ojibwe. Includes language learning activities and videos featuring Nanabush, a character present in many Anishinaabe stories.

- **News article:** “Blackfoot youth learn language through rap” – CBC News Calgary
  - A nice article and video about one educator’s innovative attempt to revitalize the Blackfoot language and culture in Alberta teenagers.

- **Website:** “Tusaalanga” – Piruvik Centre
  - An interactive website for learning the Inuit language in different northern communities.

- **Article:** “Standard English as a Second Dialect: A Canadian Perspective” – Jessica Ball & Barbara May Handford Bernhardt, *Harnessing linguistic variation for better education.*
  - A discussion of language differences that may exist in various Indigenous English Dialects, and the attempts being made to teach standard English as a second dialect to support Indigenous to preserve dialects and support students through school.

- **Blog Post:** “Fist Nations English Dialects – Alive and Well” – Sharla Peltier, Strathay Language Unit, Queen’s university
  - Sharla Peltier, an Indigenous Speech-Language Pathologist discusses her experiences work with a First Nations English Dialect in Ontario schools and the importance of becoming Bi-Dialectical.
5. Indigenous Education

A Brief Exploration of Current Practices

- **Online Workshop:** “Individual Education Plans Workshop, FNSA Professional Development” – First Nations Schools Association of British Columbia
  - Includes the video workshop and supporting materials for developing IEPs in BC First Nation’s Schools

- **Speech and Language curriculum:** “Moe the Mouse” – BC’s Paediatric Therapists
  - A therapy tool designed for children aged 3-5 which uses Indigenous culture to promote speech and language development.

- **Resource website:** “Aboriginal Lesson Plans/Activities” – Wilfred Laurier Faculty of Education
  - A series of lesson and activities centered on Indigenous culture for grades 1-12.

- **Report:** “First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education: Overcoming gaps in provincially funded schools” – People for Education
  - A 2013 report of current issues facing Indigenous students in Ontario schools. The report addresses improving knowledge of Indigenous history and culture for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, as well as tackling the achievement gap that exists between these two groups of students.

- **Website:** “Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc.”

- **Report:** “Education” – Assembly of First Nations
  - 2016 report on First Nations Education

- **Curriculum Guides:** “First Nations Languages – Provincial and Territorial Curriculum Guides” – The Canadian Association of Second Language teachers
  - Curricula for teaching Indigenous Languages in Alberta, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Saskatchewan

- **Dissertation:** “Standard/School English as a Second Dialect: Perspectives from four British Columbia school districts” – Heather Campbell, UBC
  - A student examining the success of Standard English as a Second Dialect programs in British Columbia school boards.

- **Article:** “Whose English Counts? Indigenous English in Saskatchewan schools” – Andrea Sterzuk, McGill Journal of Education
  - A discussion of Indigenous English dialects spoken by children in Saskatchewan and the frequent misidentification of these children as having speech and/or language disorders.
6. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER!

- **Article:** “English as a Second Dialect Policy and Achievement of Aboriginal Student in British Columbia” – Michele Battisti, Jane Friesen, Brian Kruath
  - A study examining the effects of funding for ESD learning on literacy in Indigenous Students → http://bit.ly/2i1Qc6T

- **Presentation:** “Standard English as a Second Dialect (ESD): Potential School Effects and Possible Features” – Pat Hart Blundon, BCASLPA Conference 2015

- **Article:** “First Nations English dialects in Canada: Implications for speech-language pathology” - Jessica Ball & Barbara May Handford Bernhardt, Clinical Linguistics & Phonetics

- **Presentation:** “First Nations English Dialects: implications for supporting language development” - Jessica Ball & Barbara May Handford Bernhardt
  - Another discussion from these two authors on English dialect differences based on a two-year project conducted in British Columbia. Includes information on the First Nations English Dialect and language development. → http://bit.ly/2h2shma
  - Also, here are some conference notes on a related presentation from these authors → http://bit.ly/2hUGyDy

- **Article:** “Language Challenges of Aboriginal Students in Canadian Public Schools” – Naghmeh Babee, First Nations Perspectives → http://bit.ly/2hIAv6R


- **Policy Brief:** “Protocols for Developmental Monitoring, Screening and Assessment of Aboriginal Young Children” – Indigenous Child Project → http://bit.ly/2igOwG0


- **News Article:** “Fixing a Failure to Communicate” – Yukon News
- **Dissertation**: “In search of an effective method of measuring First Nations Children’s Speech and Language Development” – **Ann Anderson (SLP), University of Toronto**
  - Ann Anderson is an SLP with the Rainy River district school board in Ontario. She provides services to a large population of Indigenous students. Her dissertation looks at the appropriateness of the Fluharty Preschool Speech and Language Screening Test for assessing First Nation Children’s Speech and Language.


- **Special Issue Journal**: “Service Delivery to First Nations, Inuit and Metis in Canada: Part I” – **CJSLPA (2011)**
  - A series of articles from Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists who practice with Indigenous Peoples

- **Special Issue Journal**: “Service Delivery to First Nations, Inuit and Metis in Canada: Part II” – **SAC (2014)**
  - The continuation of articles from the CJSLPA (2011) special edition.


- **Position Statement**: “Social Dialects” – **ASHA, Committee on the Status of Racial Minorities**
  - A perspective from the United States on working with dialectical differences.