



INVESTING IN THE EARLY YEARS



The Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians have invested significant resources to improve the lives of young children and their families residing in the Corning-Paskenta community. Over the last three years, the Tribe has used its Everett Freeman Promise Neighborhood (Corning Promise) to expand the following early childhood programming.

HOMEBASED EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH PROGRAM: The Promise Neighborhood grant has been used to expand Healthy Families America and Early Head Start Programs for children 0-5 years of age and their parents. Both programs offer comprehensive child development, health, and parenting components in the homes by trained providers. The programs are designed to increase age-appropriate functioning by promoting the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children through safe and developmentally enriching programming. The home-based family support programs are funded to screen children for age-appropriate functioning with a validated tool. If a child does not meet developmental milestones, the child is referred for intervention services.

PRESCHOOL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE: Resources have been poured into public and private preschool to transform them into "Centers of Excellence" marked by research-based instructional programming and high-quality learning environments.

BUILDING PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY OF EDUCATORS: Early childhood professionals from private and public preschools are provided with high-quality professional development sessions and in-classroom coaching to enhance their work in the classroom. Professional development topics have included oral language development, dialogic reading, trauma-informed practices, and the use of data to monitor student development and to inform instructional practices.

COUNSELING SERVICES FOR PRESCHOOLERS: Preschool children and their caregivers have access to a licensed counselor to address the child's mental health and behavioral needs. Funds have been used to set up a special counseling center for these young children and their families.

EARLY LEARNING ARTICULATION: Resources have been allocated to support the articulation of preschool and kindergarten transitions. This includes the alignment of instructional and assessment activities.

LITERACY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Corning Promise supports a range of literacy activities within the community. These include video programming to promote school readiness and Raising A Reader, a program where parents receive a new set of pre-selected multicultural books into the home. Additionally, grant funds have been used to sponsor several community-wide literacy events with authors.

RECREATION AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES: Corning Promise was instrumental in the re-establishment of the City of Corning's Recreation Department. Grant funds are used to promote recreation and enrichment activities for children of all ages. The program utilizes the recreational assets and expertise of community members.

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