

ABOUT THE CLASS:



Positive Indian Parenting is a culturally sensitive parenting class for parents of Native American children. This class is appropriate for all ages, as well as both female and male caretakers of children. Ideas about parenting are based on the traditions and culture of Native American Parents.

Discussion is held on how we learn ideas about parenting from our own parents while growing up. At times, this can make attendees uncomfortable depending on their memories.

- ◆ No Group member is forced to discuss things they do not wish to discuss.
- ◆ The facilitator is a licensed therapist and trained to assist in providing a safe environment in which to share if one wishes.
- ◆ The facilitator is also a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe and aware of many issues specific to Native families and parents.
- ◆ Groups are held at the offices of Great Plains Psychological Services in Sioux Falls.



CALL
323-2345
FOR MORE
INFORMATION.



Great Plains Psychological Services is committed to providing quality mental health services to individuals at all life stages and levels of need, assisting them in improving their quality of life



Great Plains Psychological Services

4105 S. Carnegie Place
Sioux Fall, SD 57106

Phone: (605)323-2345
Fax: (605)323-2822
E-mail: gppssf@aol.com



GREAT PLAINS PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

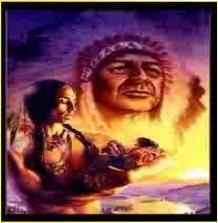


POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING



THE OLD WAYS:

Every new generation faces the job of raising children. Though we may live in a time very different from our grandparents, we have the same responsibilities as parents as they did. We must nurture and protect our children, help them learn society's beliefs and values, and the skills they will need to survive as adults.



For hundreds of years, Indian parents were guided by traditions that never left parenting to chance.

These traditions were passed from one generation to the next. The traditions may have varied from one tribe to the next, but they all had the same purpose—to ensure the tribe's future through its children. Unfortunately, many of these traditions have declined in our families because of the influence of the dominant society. While we cannot go back to the world as it once was, we can still find great value in the child-rearing traditions. They can make our job as modern parents a richer experience.



Many Tribes believed that children were special gifts from the Creator.

The tribal elders used praise and reassurance to encourage positive and loving relationships between parents and children. Prophecies were often made about the worth of a child and his or her future. The whole community recognized a child's growth and development through rites of passage ceremonies. These ceremonies were important to the child's development. The naming ceremony, for example, helped a child establish his or her identity in the tribe.



Nurturing was an important part of traditional child rearing. The use of cradle boards, for example, meant that infants were rarely separated from their mothers. However, no one person carried the whole burden of raising a child. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins were always nearby to help when parents had other responsibilities.

Through the telling of stories and legends, children learned about proper relationships with other people and the environment. They were taught to be good listeners and to regard words as sacred. They were also taught to be good observers and to understand the meaning of non verbal communication.



We can see the important elements of positive parenting in our old ways. Children were respected and understood. Parent and child relationships were important and communication was well developed.

