

Positive Indian Parenting



What is Positive Indian Parenting (PIP)?

Positive Indian Parenting is an eight-week curriculum developed by the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), which provides practical and culturally specific training for American Indian and Alaska Native parents. The training helps parents explore the values and attitudes expressed in traditional child-rearing practices and apply them to modern parenting. The curriculum draws on the strengths of traditional Indian parenting practices using storytelling, cradleboard, harmony, lessons of nature, behavior management, and the use of praise. It also addresses the historical impact of boarding schools, intergenerational trauma and grief, and forced assimilation of parenting.



How did PIP start?

NICWA gathered information from Tribal elders across the Northwest to inform the development of the curriculum. Since the program's inception, thousands of child welfare workers and other personnel who work with Native children and families have been trained and certified to implement the program, which has been delivered to countless parents.

Who is the ideal audience for the training?

Positive Indian Parenting is designed to meet the needs of both Native and non-Native parents, relatives, caregivers, foster parents, and others who strive to be more positive in their approach to parenting. Positive Indian Parenting is implemented within a Tribe and/or community serving Native people. Participants may enroll voluntarily or be mandated to participate. The Positive Indian Parenting training for facilitators is intended for Tribal child welfare workers and other personnel who work with children and families.

What are the goals of PIP?

Positive Indian Parenting offers participants a structured exploration of traditional Native values concerning parenting and helps participants apply those values in a modern setting. The training workshop for facilitators aims to prepare Tribal child welfare personnel to successfully implement the Positive Indian Parenting curriculum in their Tribes.

How does PIP differ from Western parenting programs?

Western parenting programs often fail to address the unique challenges faced by Native parents, children, and families, and they neglect the rich Tribal traditions and knowledge passed down from generation to generation.

"I was able to successfully deliver and learn the material. I realized I could actually present to the parents, I didn't think until this training that I could be a presenter!"

— Past PIP Participant



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PIP is an eight week parent training class often in two-hour sessions, for Native parents, caregivers, and non-Native foster parents of Native children.

The program is curriculum based and includes eight modules, delivered by trained facilitators. The program uses experiential learning techniques. Each session starts with a brief lecture, followed by an interactive exercise, and a group discussion.

Positive Indian Parenting was the most welcoming and greatest training I've had. I was able to learn valuable information to take back to my Tribe.
— Past PIP Participant

What do trainers learn from taking the course? By taking the course participants will:

- Be certified in the course material and be able to train parents in the strength-based methods that were traditionally used in Native families and communities.
- Have the knowledge and cultural awareness of traditional practices that were once passed down through generations.
- Have the opportunity to practice the skills taught in this training in small group work and hands-on peer learning opportunities.
- Have the necessary template and tools to design and implement their own culturally appropriate version of the Positive Indian Parenting program in their Tribal communities.
- Receive direction and material on how to work with parents and families from a Native perspective.
- Have the support and encouragement of NICWA staff while they learn, during program development, and program implementation.

How can PIP be structured in the community?

Positive Indian Parenting draws on the strengths of traditional Native child-rearing practices using storytelling, cradleboards, harmony, lessons of nature, behavior management, and the use of praise. It also addresses the historic impact of boarding schools, intergenerational trauma and grief, and forced assimilation of parenting; it empowers Native families to reclaim their right to their heritage to be positive parents.

Positive Indian Parenting is strengths-based, conveying the message that our ancestors' wisdom is a birthright for Native parents. The curriculum examines how many Native families were deprived of the right to learn traditional practices, invites participants to reclaim values that may have been lost by earlier generations, and validates existing traditional knowledge and values.

Positive Indian Parenting Sessions

- Traditional Parenting
- Lessons of the Storyteller
- Lessons of the Cradleboard
- Harmony in Child-Rearing
- Traditional Behavior Management
- Lessons of Mother Nature
- Praise in Traditional Parenting
- Choices in Parenting

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Who is the ideal PIP class participant?

Positive Indian Parenting may be delivered separately to target audiences with specific needs, such as: fathers, mothers, teen parents, grandparents, and parents with substance abuse issues. Clients may voluntarily self-refer to the Positive Indian Parenting program, or they may be required to participate by a court or by a child welfare agency. Some Tribes provide incentives, such as gift cards, to clients who voluntarily decide to complete the program.

How is NICWA PIP training structured?

The Positive Indian Parenting curriculum is taught using a train-the-trainer model. A lead trainer from the NICWA instructs facilitators from individual Tribes to train their colleagues. The program is then administered within each Tribe by the trained staff.

How do I find out more information?

Come to one of our upcoming training institutes. More information can be found at www.nicwa.org under the training section of our website. We can also come to your communities to train the PIP curriculum. Contact us for more details.

For more information contact
training@nicwa.org or visit our website
www.nicwa.org/training.



I really appreciated all the participants and teachers from communities all across the country coming to share their knowledge. I loved seeing and learning how similar we are and the connections we share.

— Past PIP Participant



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association
Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

About the National Indian Child Welfare Association

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) protects the safety, health, and cultural identity of Native children and families today and for future generations. NICWA strengthens Tribal capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect, advances policies that uphold Tribal sovereignty, and promotes Native-led, culturally grounded approaches to child welfare.

Through advocacy, coalition-building, workforce training, and technical assistance to improve service systems, NICWA works at the Tribal, local, state, and national levels to ensure that Native children can thrive within their families and communities.

Learn more at www.nicwa.org.