

Ēyetinētšínéshö'

Immersed Learning Nest (ĒILN)

"We will bring them along"

Enrollment Packet



Mission

Our mission is to directly support children's natural acquisition of the Seneca language, so they can best develop and function as fully bilingual speakers. We do this through the following strategies:

- Increase time immersed in Seneca language interactions, with an emphasis on low ratio experiences with our highly conversational staff
- Encourage children's engagement in Seneca language via accompanied play, storytelling, and use of songs throughout the day
- Foster the child's reliance on Seneca language as their means of communication via personalized interactions, targeted skill-development, and specific language prompts
- Showcase our community of speakers, including staff, preverbal peers, and speaking peers.
- Directly develop each child's fluent comprehension of Seneca language through wide-reaching experiences while immersed
- Maintain an environment that consistently encourages the emergence of new bilingual Seneca speech

Throughout our day, we provide an atmosphere that best supports the children's developing language, inspired by the land, seasonal changes, and our ceremonial way of life. Within the Nest, we mirror parents' intensive efforts at home by providing immersive care and accompaniment for their child throughout our weekday programming. Our work is meant to supplement a parent's immersive Seneca language use with their child, offering access to a speaking community of advanced second language speakers and first-language peers, age-appropriate programming, songs, and storytelling.

Our Nest is now in its third year of operation. We have serviced a total of 11 children from 8 families since piloting in February 2021. We are now hosted within the Seneca Nation's Early Childhood Learning Center, which allows us access to this facility's amenities, but also access to the beautiful Clear Creek landscape and an abundance of wildlife to witness throughout our daily excursions.

The child's primary caregiver is the first and most important speaker in his/her child's life. We expect this caregiver to be conversational, and to lean on their Seneca speech primarily, if not exclusively, throughout interactions with their child. In other words, this primary caregiver should be using the language throughout routine tasks as well as in meaningful interactions, including new experiences, consoling, responding to difficult behavior.

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CHILD INFO

Legal Name: _____ Clan Name: _____

DOB: _____ Due date (if born 2+ weeks early): _____

Current Program or childcare situation: _____

Home Address: _____

CAREGIVER INFO - 1 - (this caregiver should be the conversational speaker)

Legal Name: _____ Clan Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Nation & Clan: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Employer & Job Title: _____

CAREGIVER INFO - 2 -

Legal Name: _____ Clan Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Nation & Clan: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Employer & Job Title: _____

Is this caregiver ALSO a conversational speaker of Seneca Language? _____

HOUSEHOLD INFO

Other children in home (and ages): _____

Please outline if any custody arrangements affect your child who may take part in our Nest: _____

Written Personal Responses

Please respond in whatever way you feel will be most meaningful and informative to our staff. You are welcome to use any additional paper OR email responses as well.

Please describe your experience as a conversational speaker of the Seneca language (may include: where and with whom you've studied, who you regularly converse with, what elders you have worked with, personal accomplishments regarding your Seneca speech).

Please describe the language make-up of your home. Who speaks what language, how often, and/or when...

Tell us about some new language (words or phrases) you've recently learned and how you've shared this with your child.

Every child has their struggles in these early years, and beyond! Tell us specifically, what phrases do you use to soothe your child during difficult behaviors. How has this language changed over time, if at all?

Describe an uplifting interaction (however small!) with your child that is helping you feel inspired.

In what ways do you imagine your child's participation in our program will support your household and/or your parenting in language?

TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF

Date Application was Completed and Received: _____

Parent Language Proficiency Check

To be completed by the staff member(s) who can attest to the parent's speaking capacity and conversational ability, per a recent conversation regarding everyday topics.

Date of conversation: _____ Duration: _____

Nature of discussion: _____

Areas of concern: _____

Recommendation for child placement: _____

I attest that the parent participated in functional conversation without relying on English to maintain understandable, unscripted dialog.

Staff Name - printed

Staff Signature

Date

Staff Name - printed

Staff Signature

Date

Staff Name - printed

Staff Signature

Date