**Lesson 1 (Bezhik): Appreciating Books**

**Lesson Objective**

The child will learn to love reading with their family member while developing an appreciation and respect for books.

**Medicine Wheel Wisdom**

The child’s learning journey with Gikinawaabi has just begun! This is symbolized by the Eastern direction of the medicine wheel. The East is the time of new beginnings, Spring, and where the sun comes up. With a family's love, support and encouragement, the child can grow as a learner and observer!

Use the checklist below to help introduce the lesson to the family. These items are actions that we hope to support in our work with the family. 

**Family Outcomes (PICCOLO):**

* Attends to the child's actions
* Is physically close to the child
* Shows enthusiasm for what the child is doing
* Supports the child's choices
* Understands the importance of reading to their child

**Child Behavior Outcomes (LOLLIPOP):**

* Shows interest in reading with their family
* Knows how books are read
* Can identify various parts of a book (author, front page, beginning & end of the book)
* Shows respect in handling and caring for books
* Active and attentive listening
* Interacts during read-aloud and book conversations
* Uses emergent reading skills
* Retells stories

**Home Visitor Lesson Overview**

**Materials Needed:**

* Three Books from Inventory
* Medicine Wheel Early Learning Journey Sheet
* Tip-Sheet: “How to Read to a Child”
* Medicine Wheel Overview Sheet

**Lesson:**

1. With the family, discuss the important aspects to reading to a child:
   * + Ask the family about their experiences with books and reading.
     + Remind caregivers that every child develops skills at their own pace.
     + Remind the caregiver of the importance of being physically close to the child while reading.
     + Explain that it is good to read the same book if the child requests it.
     + Ask questions about the book before reading it (such as where is the cover or title).
     + Point to the text and pictures with your finger as you read.
     + Model respect and careful handling of books.
2. Ask the child to choose a book
3. Read the book and show the family how to provide encouragement to their child and reassure them that their child’s curious behaviors are normal and expected.
   * + Encourage child to talk about what they see in the book
     + Point to the words and letters for familiarity and recognition
     + Ask questions about the text and pictures
     + Ask the child “why” and “how” questions from the book
     + Provide encouraging support to the child:
       - “I noticed how you turned the pages…”
       - “I see how gentle you are being with the book…”
       - “You are really enjoying this book…”



**It is very important to give the child time to respond to questions as they are learning!**

1. Transition the family member to lead the activity with the child. The home visitor provides guidance, encouragement, and acknowledgement of a job well done. Point out positive behaviors, provide positive feedback, supports the child’s book selections or decisions, and/or shows enthusiasm about the activity.

**Lesson Wrap-Up:**

* Tip-Sheet: “How to Read to a Child”
* The Medicine Wheel Book
* Provide the Leave-Behind Folder & Explain the Lesson 1 Activity