

## What is Opokaa'sin?

Opokaa'sin is the Blackfoot word meaning "all the children". This simple term is used to describe all the joy and importance that children play within society, as well as the responsibility that comes with raising our children.

Opokaa'sin Early Intervention Society was created in 1996 as a joint partnership by various Aboriginal partners as an effort toward prevention and early intervention for Aboriginal children within Lethbridge and surrounding regions.

## OUR VISION.....

Our vision is to be an organization dedicated to a healthy community where First Nations people, through family, community and cultural support, reflect pride, respect and self-esteem in realizing their individual potential.

## OUR MISSION....

Opokaa'sin exists to strengthen, support and empower First Nations people and the community through advocating, education and nurturing pride of First Nations culture.

## *What services or programs does Opokaa'sin offer for my family?*

Opokaa'sin offers a wide range of afterschool and individual programs:

### **MENTORING**

We currently offer a mentoring program that allows children to be placed one-on-one with an Aboriginal resource person who will assist your child in recreational, academics, life skills and culture areas.

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

We offer an afterschool program geared toward children from grades 1 – 6. This program is centrally themed around learning through play. Whether it be a night of cooking with the elders or learning how to play chess, children are exposed to a variety of activities in a safe and non-threatening atmosphere with staff that are culturally sensitive and dedicated to our children realizing their full potential.

### **FAMILY PRESERVATION**

We currently offer services for children & families, through referral from Southern Alberta Child/Family Services. Services include transports & supervised visits.

### **PACT (Parents and Children Together)**

Designed for parents, caregivers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and children. PACT offers a safe environment for parents to find support and for children to meet new friends through interactive and fun activities.

### **YOUTH MENTORING & YOUTH GROUPS**

Programs for both one-on-one youth mentorship, and weekly youth group programs are available for ages 12 – 16.

*Opokaa'sin Provides other services to children & families:*

- *Child advocacy*
- *Mediation (aid from an Elder)*
- *Referrals to other community resources.*
- *Community involvement.*
- *Cultural awareness and sensitivity training for non-Aboriginal sectors*
- *Elder/child activities*

## NATIVE PATHWAYS OF SUCCESS

Seeking alternative positive lifestyles through the direction of Opokaa'sin's elders and resource people to lead a constructive lifestyle by Early Intervention.

Early Intervention is following our cultural ways by living a well balanced life which meets our emotional, spiritual, physical and mental needs. Our partners have identified problem areas that require immediate attention.

Opokaa'sin Early Intervention Society seeks to address these problems and strengthen the family unit through elders, resource personnel and community referral, we seek healthy solutions.

## **OPOKAA'SIN EARLY INTERVENTION SOCIETY**



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