



## Implementing the Pyramid Model in Programs Supporting Indigenous and Alaskan Native Children and their Families

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National Center for  
**Pyramid Model  
INNOVATIONS**

[ChallengingBehavior.org](http://ChallengingBehavior.org)

## Presenters



**Whitney Sauer**  
Zaasijiwan Head Start

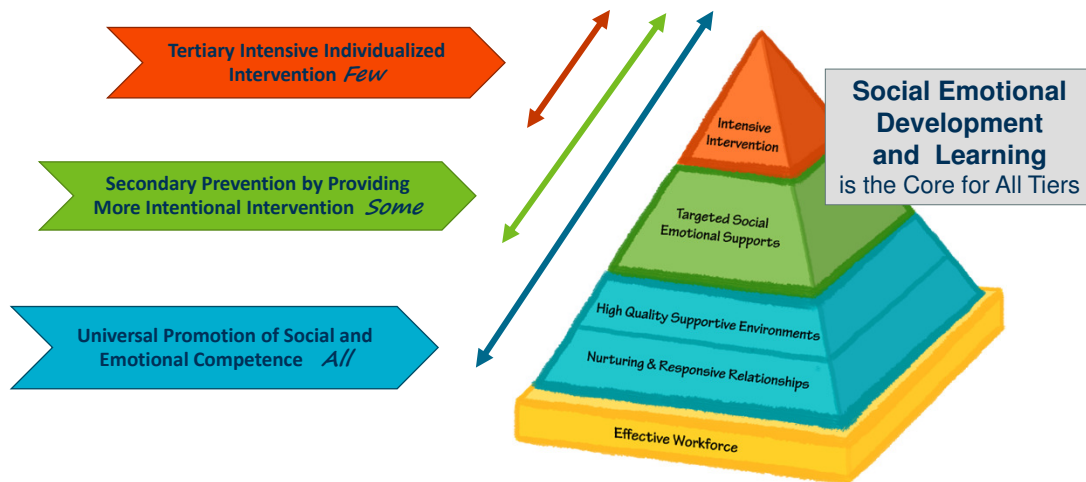


**Marjorie Harris**  
Cook Inlet Native  
Head Start



**Katherine Merculief**  
Cook Inlet Native  
Head Start

## Pyramid Model for Promoting Social and Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children

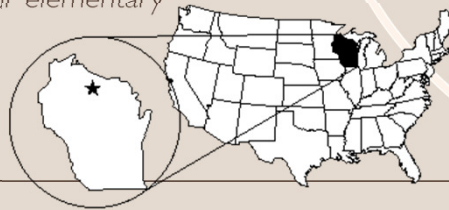


Implementing the Pyramid Model in  
Program Supporting Indigenous and  
Alaskan Native Children

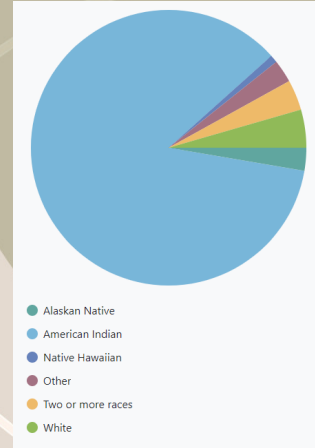
## Biindigen-Welcome to our program



- Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
  - We are 1 of 11 federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin
- Located between four counties in Northern Wisconsin.
- Seven classrooms and two home visitors (4 EHS and 3 HS)
- 95 children enrolled
- Share a building with our elementary school



Current enrollment of children



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## My classroom

- Children ages 3-5, with 14 children and two teachers
- 7:30-3:30 September through May
- Family Tree in room with their pictures of them and their family
- Pictures of kids in the classroom to create a classroom family
- Calming area



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## Cook Inlet Native Head Start

We are in Anchorage Alaska the largest city in Alaska. We currently have two sites with 5 EHS classrooms, 8 HS classrooms, one Yupik immersion room and 2 home based Teachers. We can serve approximately 300 children. We have about 21 different Alaskan Native Languages and Cultures. We do our best to honor all the Cultures through Language, dance and other cultural experiences.



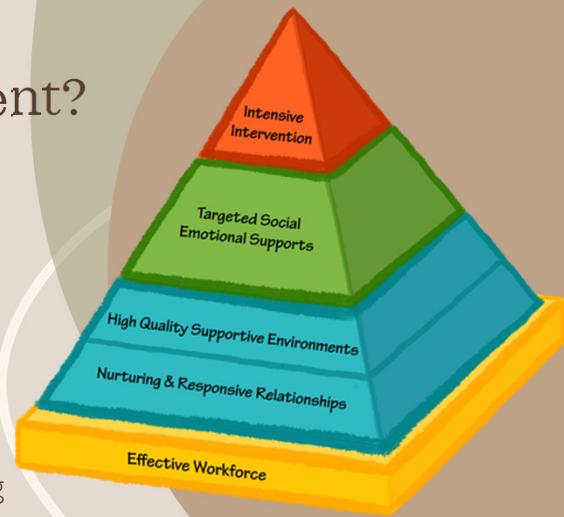
### COOK INLET: WHY DID WE IMPLEMENT THE PYRAMID MODEL?

- Our Mental Health consultant
- Social and emotional support for all students
- Support students at Tier 1 and 2 to help prevent Tier 3 behaviors.
- Aligns with our program wide expectations: We Care, We Respect, We Honor, We know who we are.
- With the Pyramid Model we are building those foundations with staff, families, and students.



## Zaasijiwan: Why implement?

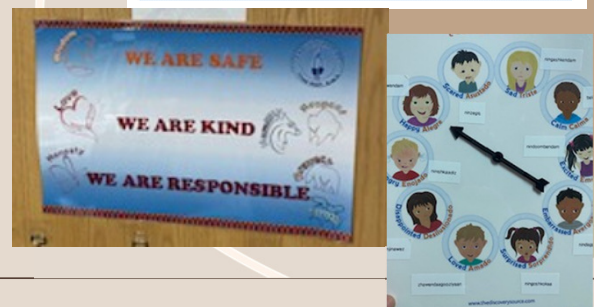
- Need for Social and Emotional
- To create a more effective workforce
- Rebuild after being closed for Covid
- Second attempt of implementation first tried to team with grade school and did not use PIDS system
- Need for more social emotional development support for children and staff
- Coaching support for both coach and coachees
- Another tool to help support children in identifying and dealing with their emotions
- A framework to help support us as teachers and our program-visual supports



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## Aligning with the culture

- Adapted materials to the families and what they need or find most helpful
- Worked to survey families and staff on their thoughts on a social emotional framework
  - took advice and impute to help implement framework
  - Worked with 3-4 families from the area during leadership team meetings
- Parents impute on rules and expectation-did a survey
- Incorporated Ojibwe language to materials that had English and Spanish
- Materials available in Ojibwe language –there is some challenges with dialect





## PYRAMID MODEL AND CINHS

- ❖ Our mission statement “Building Strong Foundations with Alaska Native Families through Alaska Native Cultures and Education” guides everything we do and is one of the main reasons we use Pyramid model.
- ❖ The Pyramid model framework allows us to individualize, adjust and allows us to embed our Traditional Native Values into social emotional learning.
- ❖ Just as our curriculum based on Traditional Native values guides and supports connecting our students and the families to their cultures, the Pyramid Model tools are used together with cultural knowledge to support each child.
- ❖ At CINHS students learn through experiences based on culturally appropriate activities and materials so occasionally we will adapt, change or not use some of the Pyramid Model resources.

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### Accomplishments / Activities



CREATED AND IMPLEMENTED A DEVELOPMENTAL AND BEHAVIOR REFERRAL PROCESS

INDIGENOUS ARTIST CREATED CLIP ART TO SUPPORT RULES AND CULTURE

USING GOOGLE FORMS ABLE TO TRACK AND MEASURE BEHAVIOR AND INTERVENTION PROGRESS



## Accomplishments

- All rooms with a safe calming area-with calming sensory items to support emotions, books and fidgets
- Created committees for other content areas- culture and language, family service, teaching practices
- Family photos in room-removable for children or posted in areas they can access
- Pyramid model classroom kits provided for each room
  - Added Ojibwe language to areas and materials
- Provided families with –Tucker Turtle Book, Suri Spider, and Calming Kits for Home- <https://thediscoverysource.com/the-pyramid-model/>
  - Added Ojibwe language to materials
- Family nights on Triple Ps' and Positive Strategies for Parents
- Family surveys completed each year at last conference of the year
- in the process of building an outdoor classroom
- Support and plan to help with challenging behaviors/care teams with families
- Partnerships with family resources center and early childhood education specialists
- Sharing of Data



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## Advice for other programs supporting Indigenous and Native Children and Families

- Importance of building trusting relationships
- Time and patience to learn it and implement
- Use the materials, resources and framework just individualize for your program and families
- PIDS System is super helpful and beneficial
- Remember a strong effective workplace is the foundation and the Pyramid Model Framework helps with that
- Wisconsin Pyramid Model team sent us care packages and materials with ideas to incorporate in program-thankyou letters, gratitude cards, external coach
- Materials available and provided are helpful
- Resources easily accessible in their website –print and help with families-conferences, home visits
- Meet monthly for leadership meetings



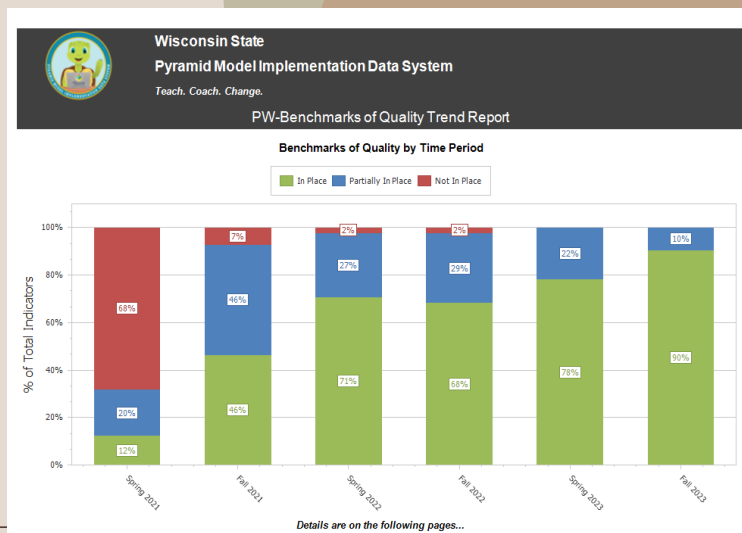
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## Advice or suggestions

- Train staff yearly/ pre-service training
- Create a Pyramid Model Team that meets monthly
- Culturally responsive and respectful team members
- Connect with your cultural coordinator to ensure cultures are represented correctly.
- Get to know the families you serve and their culture

## Advice for Programs

- It works
  - Take the trainings, uses PIDS, support social-emotional development
  - It's a framework and a great guide!
  - Use the tools and resources
  - Complete the Benchmarks of Quality





## Questions?

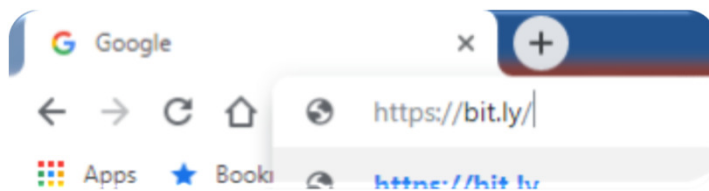
Use the  
Q&A panel  
to submit your  
questions.



## Survey and Certificate

### Recording Viewers

- Scan QR Code or type URL during presentation into a web browser window
- *URL is case sensitive*



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**NCPMI**

About - Pyramid Model - Implementation - Training & Technical Assistance - Pyramid Nation

CSEFEL

Pyramid Model

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National Center for  
**Pyramid Model  
INNOVATIONS**

When great efforts come together, amazing things happen.

**The National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations**

The goals of the National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations (NCPMI) are to assist states and programs in their implementation of sustainable systems for the implementation of the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children (Pyramid Model) within early intervention and early education programs with a focus on promoting the social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes of young children birth to five, reducing the use of inappropriate discipline practices, promoting family engagement, using data for decision-making, integrating early childhood and infant mental health consultation and fostering inclusion.

**New to the Pyramid Model?**

Get the basics on the Pyramid Model.



**Thank You**



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