



My Cree Family - Neetsanak

Make a Family Picture!

Beginner: Draw or find pictures of your family members.

[Tip]: Say the family names of each person in Cree or other languages.

In Cree, “my mother” is *nikâwiy* (NI-gah-wee), “my father” is *nohtâwiy* (NOOH-ta-wee), the word “you” is *nîna*.

Intermediate: Draw or find family pictures, and talk about physical features (brown eyes, glasses, beard).

[Tip]: Say and write the family names in Cree or other languages.

Sister (my older sister): *nimis* (ni-MIS STAYS)

Brother (my older brother): *nistês* (ni-STAYS)

Aunt (father’s mother): *Nisikos* (NI-si-gos)

Uncle (father’s brother): *Nisis* (ni-SIS)

Grandfather: *Nimosôm* (NI-mo-SOOM)

Grandmother: *Nohkom* (NOOH-gom)

Kokum means “Your Grandmother”

Experienced: Draw or find pictures of your family and talk about their special traits or talents. Talk about how you are related to each member of the family.

[Tip]: While you are looking at the pictures, say them in Cree or another language that you know.

Why is this important? Learning terms in another language with caregivers benefits children both culturally and in literacy.

References: Marian, V., & Shook, A. (2012). The cognitive benefits of being bilingual. *Cerebrum: the Dana forum on brain science*, 2012, 13.