



Silly Ojibwe Scenarios

Do trees talk?

Beginner: Say “Eya” instead of “Yes” in English or other languages

[Tip]: Introduce the word before asking your child to use it.

Intermediate: Ask questions with “Eya” [Yes] and “Gaawin” [No] answers.

[Tip]: Does a bear walk on all four feet? Do trees talk? Can you see the spider? Do dogs have wings? Do fish wear clothes?

Experienced: Introduce “iindog” [Maybe/Must Be] into the game with silly scenarios.

[Tip]: “Can a duck wear a hat and fly at the same time?” “Can cats dance and sing?”

[Brief] Why? Children understand more words than they can say in a language.

[Detailed] Why? Exposure to Ojibwe sounds and words helps children hear language in familiar home contexts, supporting language revitalization.

References: Gokee-Rindal, D. E. (2009). The teachings of our ancestors: A vision of Ojibwe language and culture revitalization for young children in the Red Cliff community. University of Minnesota.