

Healthy Children, Healthy Families



The GNWT is committed to making every step count during early childhood development.

To ensure young children and their families have access to essential educational and health care resources during the first six years of life, the GNWT has invested resources in homes and communities across the territory.

It takes the strength and wellness of families and communities in the early years to produce healthy children who flourish in their environment and reach their full potential.



MAKING EVERY

For the Professional

Health care and child care workers are using four valuable screening tools to evaluate and track physical, social and developmental growth during the first six years of life. Detecting problems early gives specialists the time to work with young children who need it most to ensure they master key skills and reach their full potential.

Universal Neo-natal Hearing Screening



(The Child Development Resource Kit) is an effective resource that enhances the department to target speech and language stimulation techniques through play. A wonderful asset to the people (who work with children) who would otherwise not have access to these developmental toys. – Department of Speech and Language Pathology, Stanton Territorial Hospital, Yellowknife



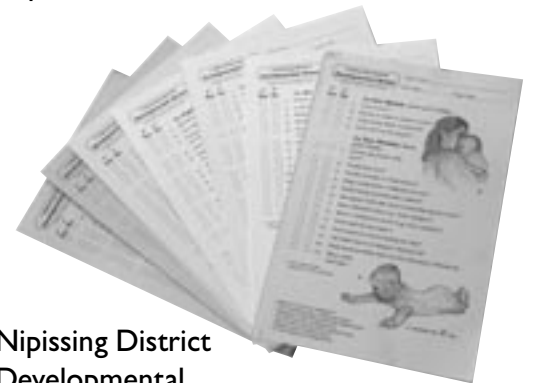
Child Development Resource Kit



Pure Tone Screening Audiometer Replacement

The audiometer helps us test kids' hearing at younger ages and it's easier to administer to the kids. We also tell teachers we have the machine in case new students have hearing problems. And the Nipissing helps us when kids are delayed in language or speech, we find the problem right away.
– Community Health Representative, Deline

Nipissing is very helpful. It has helped us identify speech problems in children and moms are starting to open up and ask more questions about it.
– Community Health Representative, Rae



Nipissing District Developmental Screen

For the Community

Making sure aboriginal languages thrive in our communities is important. We learn languages best at an early age. To help children learn aboriginal languages, 15 Language Nests were started across the territory – from Holman and Tuktoyaktuk to Fort Smith. The 'Nests' are built within existing child care programs, and give elders, parents, children and child care workers the chance to gather and communicate in traditional languages. Whether it is Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, North Slavey, South Slavey, Gwich'in, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun or Inuinnaqtun, children are learning the language of their ancestors.

Dana comes home and is starting to speak Slavey to me, so I am trying to get involved. She is encouraging me to speak the Slavey language. – Mother, Fort McPherson

For me, Dene language is the connection to all living things. – Kat'odeechee First Nation Band Administrator, Elder, Mother, Grandmother

I think it's an excellent start for them to pick it up at an early age, as they are developing their language skills. They will be able to learn and speak the language. – Mother, Fort McPherson

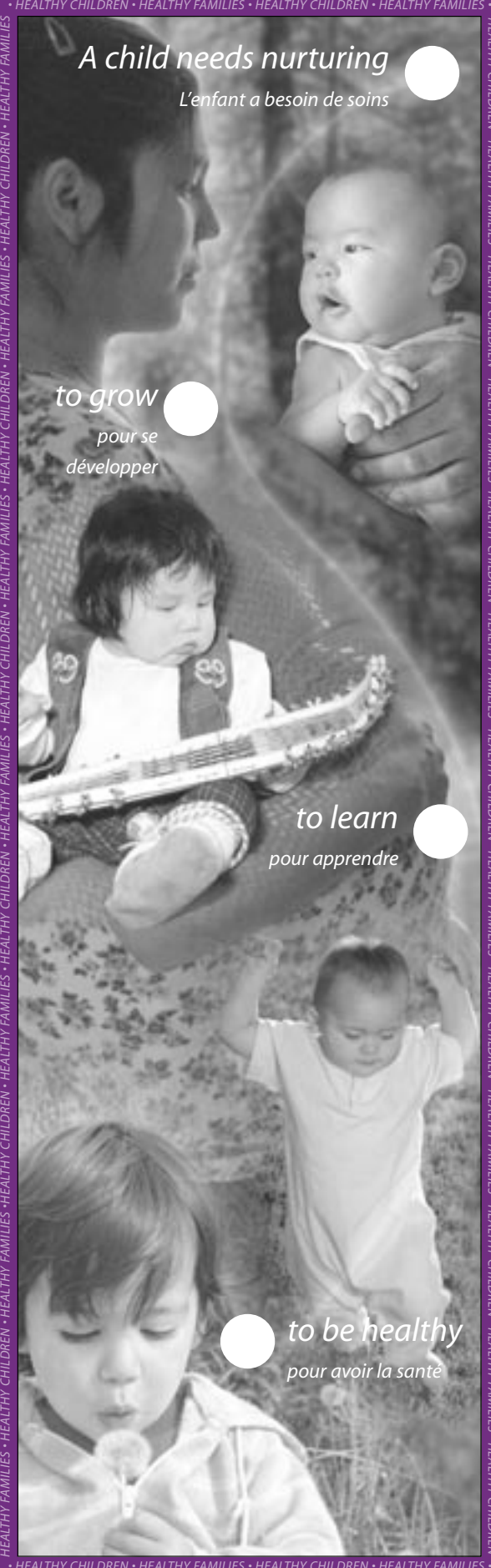
I think that's the best time to teach them. When they start to speak the English language, teach them to speak the Gwich'in language at an early age. – Elder, Fort McPherson

Language is a window into a culture. It is essential if you want a good understanding of culture. – Elder, Adult Educator, Father, Grandfather, Hay River Dene Reserve



My son picked up the Gwich'in language very quickly at an early age and he loves to say a prayer that was taught to him. – Mother, Fort McPherson

Healthy Futures... Start Early



A child needs nurturing
L'enfant a besoin de soins

to grow
pour se
développer

to learn
pour apprendre

to be healthy
pour avoir la santé

**Make Every
Step Count**
Chaque étape est
importante



Healthy Children • Healthy Families
Des enfants en bonne santé
Des familles en bonne santé



For more information on:

**Healthy Family Kits and
Child Development Resource Kits**
contact the
health centre in your community

**Family Learning Kits and
Language Nests**
contact
earlychildhood@gov.nt.ca

Early Childhood Supports
Health and Social Services at
www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca
(see “initiatives”) or
Education, Culture and Employment
at www.ece.gov.nt.ca