

Government of the Northwest Territories Language Nests Initiative



Evaluation Approach

- Complex program requiring a creative and non-traditional evaluation approach
 - Multi-site initiative;
 - Non-standardized application:
 - ✓ Adaptive to individual centres;
 - ✓ Emergent;
 - Ongoing knowledge generation
- Consider context and conditions of initiative

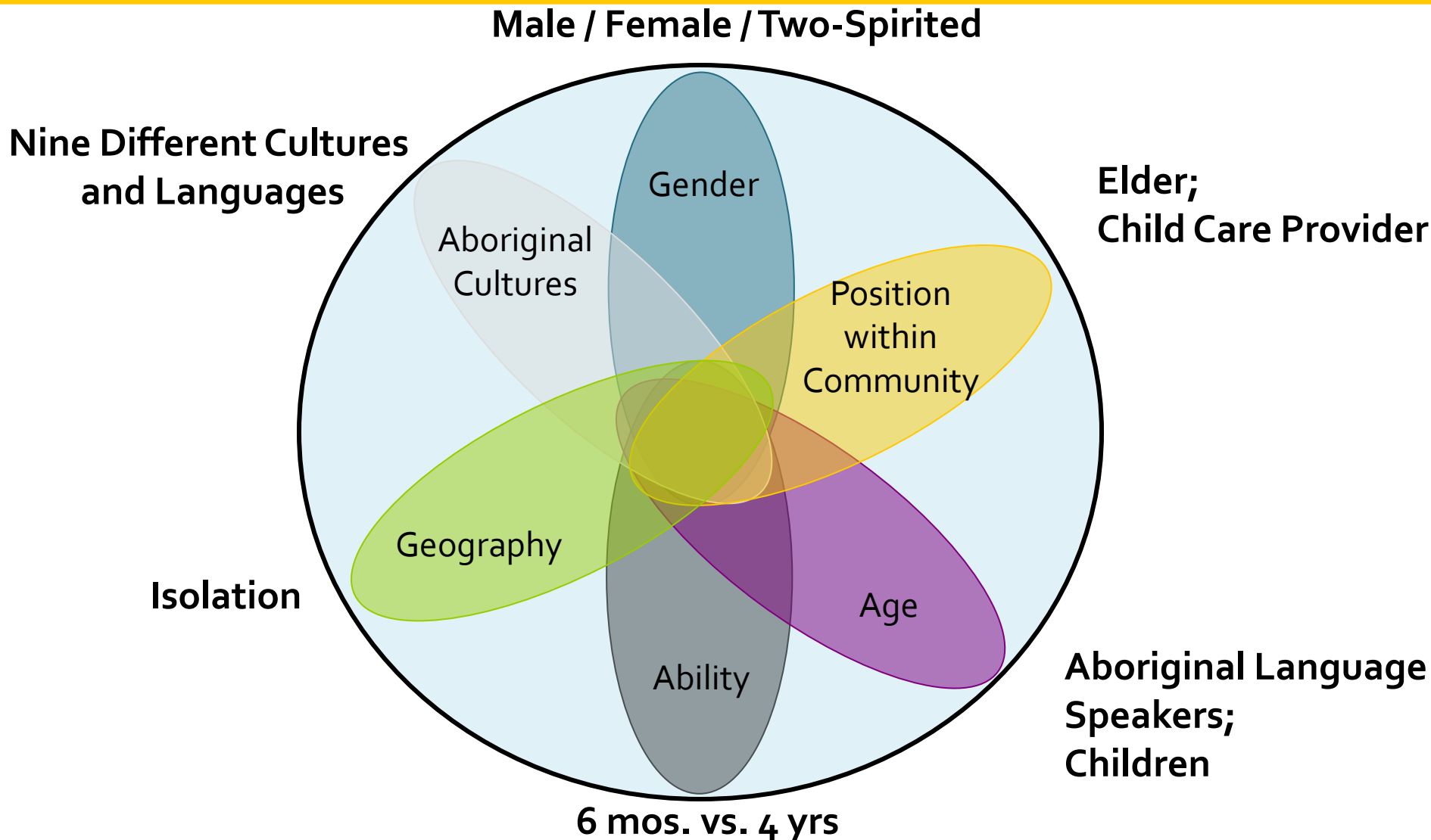
Why Diploma Consulting Inc.?

- Experience working in different cultural settings;
- Experience working with vulnerable populations, including children;
- Experience learning and teaching language;
 - Children & Adults
- Sensitive to diversity, culture and ethics

GNWT Language Nests



Diversity, Culture & Ethical Issues



Implementation

To what extent have individual programs been implemented according to the Department of Education, Culture & Employment's (ECE) design?

Indicators

- Degree to which individual programs follow the ECE design
- % of individual program activities that meet criteria as immersion programs

Data Sources

- Feedback from ECE personnel and individual program staff
- Review of funding applications
- Review program documentation
- Review survey data

Data Collection Methods

- Key informant interviews
- Documentation and survey data review

Analysis

Content analysis of the interviews and program reports

Program Success

Have the individual Language Nest programs assisted in creating the conditions for the attainment of stated program objectives?

Indicators

- Amount of resources shared among key stakeholders
- % of program time devoted to an immersion setting

Data Sources

- Feedback from ECE personnel and individual program staff
- Review of funding applications
- Review program documentation
- Review survey data

Data Collection Methods

- Key informant interviews
- Documentation and survey data review

Analysis

Content analysis of the interviews and program reports

Program Success

To what extent has the Language Nest programs leveraged language capacity in the community at large (e.g. parents, elders)?

Indicators

- Number of volunteers to teach the language
- Number of parents learning the language with the children

Data Sources

- Program statistics on volunteers and parents' participation
- Survey data

Data Collection Methods

- Program reports
- Program surveys

Analysis

Qualitative and quantitative analysis to assess level of community participation

Program Success

To what extent has the Language Nest programs has increased language capacity among the children and staff?

Indicators

- Level of language acquisition for children completing the program
- Level of language acquisition among the staff

Data Sources

- Survey data
- Program statistics on pre and post-language capacity
- Creative feedback from students
- Staff language testing results

Data Collection Methods

- Program reports
- Program surveys
- Creative feedback (i.e. play therapy, drawings, oral, musical assessments, story telling, etc.)

Analysis

Mixed methods analysis to integrate multiple lines of evidence

Value for Money

How have the Language Nest Programs contributed to supporting the cultural and political identity of Northerners?

Indicators

- Number of daycares where the program is offered
- Number of children and parents involved
- Level of satisfaction with language and culture acquisition

Data Sources

- ECE statistics
- Key informant interviews
- Survey results
- Feedback from parents and elders

Data Collection Methods

- Documentation review
- Interviews with ECE personnel and parents and elders

Analysis

Quantitative with Content analysis to test the value for money

Improvement

What best practices can be identified from the current Language Nest programs?

Indicators

- Number of lessons learned identified
- Number of best practices identified

Data Sources

- Annual program reports to Department of Education, Culture & Employment
- Feedback Language Nest coordinators, elders and community volunteers

Data Collection Methods

- Documentation review
- Semi-structured interviews with Language Nest coordinators
- Focus groups with elders and community volunteers

Analysis
Qualitative assessment of lessons learned and best practices

Improvement

What knowledge can Department of Education, Culture & Employment transfer to improve the Language Nest Initiative?

Indicators

- Number of lessons learned

Data Sources

- Annual program reports to GNWT
- Feedback from departmental personnel and Language Nest coordinators

Data Collection Methods

- Documentation review
- Semi-structured interviews with departmental personnel and Language Nest coordinators

Analysis

Content analysis

Evaluative Judgement

Extent to which program facilitates context and conditions for attainment of program objectives

- Extent to which the program facilitates opportunities for exposure to Aboriginal language and culture
 - Children; Parents & Community
- Extent to which program builds on community knowledge of language and culture

Evaluative Judgement Continued

- Opportunities for children? Families? Community?
 - Time of day of activities? Participation?
- Type of activities?
 - Immersion vs. Instruction
- Retention of children, families and community in various program-related activities?
- Use of resources and materials:
 - Books, computer programs, music, games, etc.
- Level of involvement of older siblings in ongoing development of language acquisition in children

Challenges and Solutions

Challenges

Solutions

Ethical

Target Population
Aboriginal Pre-School
Aged Children

Actively encourage and facilitate
feedback with children in age and
culturally appropriate manner

Political &
Cultural

Relationships
Building Relationships
with Aboriginal
Community

Actively engage with community
throughout each stage of the evaluation
and provide ongoing opportunities for
feedback and recommendations

Implementation

Multi-Site Delivery
Geographical and
Culturally Diverse
Communities

Consider a community's individual
context and conditions and the overall
implementation of the Language
Nests Initiative

Evaluation Opportunities

- Non-traditional evaluative approach allows flexibility to appropriately address diversity, cultural and ethical issues;
 - Individual Program Delivery Sites;
 - Overall Initiative
- Use of age-appropriate mechanisms to involve target population for richer results;
- Involvement of community allows for greater spread of perspectives;

Thank You

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