



RAISE up our children to be strong...in a positive way ...

Outreach coordinator's



corner.....

Waqaa! May the blessings of the season be abundantly upon you. As I am beginning to prepare for the season of spending productive time at fish camp, preparations include prayers of being safe and healthy – for us and our children and their children. I begin to talk about being safe with wood and food cutters, awareness tips on being in and around water, in and around trees, etc. My counsel also includes personal safety and respect for self and others. All of this applies to me as well – if I do not walk my talk, what good is that. Our children are very observant and for many of them, they are quick to act on what they see or hear. Be safe. Prevent harm. Have a great summer!

Tepeq is our summer delicacy – ALL of us. And we ALL know the traditional process followed to produce that certain fermented taste of this unique seasonal dish. I am very sure you understand what I am talking about, right? And you know, because it is my family's favorite summer meal – I know it is your family's favorite...anyone's and everyone's. Factually, I do have some family members who will get a whiff and choose to stay upwind and choose not to stay around while my husband, a couple of our children, grandchildren and I enjoy the meal. Now...about your favorite dish; baked potatoes and shrimp alfredo. I know I have acquired the taste to enjoy your favorite dish. But... there are people out here who may feel the same way as some of my family members do about tepeq. I think we are all intellectually aware of what the result may be of someone who has been force fed ...especially of something they have no clue of. The result can be green, gooey, putrid and just plain awful. It can even lead to unintentional illness. This metaphor using favorite meals can easily apply to many, many other differences; social, racial, cultural, language, economic, etc., etc. Let us all be respectfully aware and do our best to orient ourselves (if we haven't already) and then strive to work in a way that is relevant to our service area. This simple step of responsiveness will allow us to reach our goals and beyond....

About our children...have them observe and be actively involved in all of our subsistence activities. Talk to them in our Yup'ik language. Tell them stories. Answer their questions. Enjoy meals with them. Give them chores, expect them to complete them. Thank them. Sing with them. Have them pick up after themselves. Keep them clean. Water is good for them. Dry fish is the best snack. Have them punch your dough. Drink tea with them. Have them pack water for you. Walk with them. Smell the flowers they pick for you.

Mikelnguput elitnaullemteki nallunricesqumakemtenek ilakarkaugaput ellmeggnek qigciklerkaatnek. Tamaaggun-llu taringellratgun qigcigyullerkaat allam yuum temiinek elitnaurciqaaput. Arcaqalriaruq man'a taringevkallerkaa, elluarrluni anglillerkaanun ayautnguciqliniuq taringekuni qigcigyugyaraamek. (As we teach our children – remember to include self respect, in that way a child will learn to respect self and others. This is an important positive characteristic that a child will gain if taught.)



Iriamta Ikayurviat strives to provide the least traumatic response to child abuse through child friendly, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive services to children, families and communities throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.