



TAKOJA NIWICIYAPE



Purpose Statement And Program Credits

The purpose of the Dakota Family Way Of Life Alcohol Prevention Program, *Takoja Niwiciyape: Giving Life to the Grandchildren*, is to help parents and extended family encourage both youth who have not started “using” alcohol or drugs and those who have started to develop the strength to resist negative peer pressure through activities designed to strengthen positive family ties and positive family behaviors. Because of the extensive focus on Dakota/ Lakota/Nakota cultural content the program developers have been asked to integrate Takoja Niwiciyape into other challenging and pressing issues that families currently face such as suicide prevention, delinquent and criminal behavior, and violence. The activities practiced in the program give both parents and youth the insight, skills, and strength to become and stay close to each other in loving, accepting, and supportive relationships that allow for mistakes, offer forgiveness, and celebrate success.

Efforts have been made to incorporate all three Dakota/Lakota/Nakota dialects and cultural perspectives throughout the program. In many instances, the term “Dakota” is used interchangeably to refer to all three dialects in general. However, incorporation of all dialects and cultural variations is incomplete. Local program facilitators must work with tribal elders to incorporate dialects, variations, and cultural traditions.

With permission, the Dakota Family Way of Life Alcohol Prevention Program has used or modified a number of activities or information from the Positive Indian Parenting created by the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Strengthening Families Program developed by Karol L. Kumpfer, Ph.D., and the Bii-Zin-Da-De-Dah prevention program developed for the Anishinabe people. The Twelve Oyate values have been preserved and incorporated throughout every aspect of this program with references from the book *The Lakota Way*, written by Joseph M. Marshall, III.

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