

Our Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve program runs from September to June and serves as a school readiness for children ages three to five years old. The Head Start program runs based on six components, which are as follow: culture and language, education, health promotion, nutrition, social support, and parental involvement. We have been very fortunate to have the support of our Chief and Council, along with Health Canada, North Shore Micimac District Council, INAC, MK, METS and community organizations to assist in our program and professional development. Over the past year North Shore Micimac District Council has put fourth funding to make it possible for four staff members working in the Head Start program to become certified in a one year certificate program in Early Childhood Education through New Brunswick Community College. Funding was also secured from METS to fix a leaky roof on the Youth Center to be re-shingled. There are currently seven children enrolled in the Head Start program having great successes. We have been fortunate to have an early intervention worker hired by the Confederacy of Mainland Micmacs who comes to the center to do developmental screenings in the children as well as hearing testing. Our Aboriginal Head Start on Reserve program is one of our biggest successes and as we move forward we hope that the program will continue to grow and surpass our expectations,

The afterschool program runs daily Monday to Friday from 2pm to 5pm, from September to June and can have anywhere from five children up to 20 children daily. The program is for children aged five to twelve years old and offers a healthy daily snack. The children have complete access to the building inside and out and all materials. There is an optional homework hour and activities for children who wish to participate. On Monday evenings we have ballet dances classes beginning at 5pm to 8pm for children from the ages of two and a half years old to thirteen years old,

There is a drop in center from 5pm to 9pm Monday to Friday and 12pm to 8pm on Saturday. Where the children are free to come and go as they please and use the facilities. Our center is available to them as a support network, a social place and a fun, safe, and secure facility for our youth to gather.

During March Break and Summer vacation the Youth Center transforms into day camp for school aged children. The day camp is broken up into weekly themes and each week permits twenty children to attend. We have had great success with our summer camps and have been fortunate to be able to take the children on fun filled overnight trips as well as some very educational trips. The children have had the opportunity to meet some great people from within the community and outside of the community who have shared a great deal of knowledge with them. We look forward to success in the future and the opportunity to make memories with the children and youth in the future.

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