



## **Family and Child Education (FACE) Program**

The Family and Child Education (FACE) program was initiated in 1990 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Education Programs (BIA OIEP). OIEP wanted to develop an integrated model for a tribal early childhood parental involvement program. In keeping with both the National Goals for American Indians and Alaska Natives and Goals 2000, which promote readiness for school and adult literacy and lifelong learning, the program targets birth to age five children and their families and children in grades K-3.

The program was initially funded at six sites and subsequently was named the Family and Child Education (FACE) program to emphasize the family focus. It was expanded to include additional communities and presently is implemented at 32 sites serving children 0-8 and their parents/primary caregivers.

Through a collaborative effort, models from three nationally acclaimed programs have been combined to achieve a new family education model that serves families with children from birth through grade three and is culturally relevant to the communities it serves. The models are provided by the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), the Parents As Teachers National Center (PAT) and the High/Scope Research Foundation.

NCFL and PAT have integrated their program models and training efforts to provide services to families with children from birth to age five. Parents As Teachers provides the training for the home-based component, in which parent educators provide support to families with children from birth to age three through home visits, parent meetings, periodic screening of overall development and connections to school and community services.

NCFL provides training for the center-based component, which includes meeting the multidisciplinary adult education needs of the parents, a developmentally appropriate preschool, parent education and time for parent-child interactions for families with children in the three-to-five age range. Some families receive both center- and home-based services.

The High/Scope Research Foundation trains teachers to implement the High/Scope curriculum in grades K-3 to facilitate the transition of FACE children into school and to implement a curriculum based on constructivist learning and teaching.

Through the collaborative efforts of trainers from each of the three programs, a comprehensive FACE training program has been implemented in which group training sessions and on-site technical assistance are provided to address both program issues as well as the job-specific needs of program providers. The training program not only provides professional development, but also provides support to program operators who work in settings that are often isolated and deal with complex, stressful family issues on a daily basis. The comprehensive training program supports the integration of the program components and the emergence of the FACE model for American Indian family education. The focus on infusing local culture and native language in the program ensures that the services are relevant for the intended population.

Since the inception of FACE, 15,000 individuals representing 5,000 families have received program services. More than 400 adults have received their GED and over 1,500 adults obtained employment. Most children have improved in all developmental areas and literacy behaviors between parents and children have increased dramatically. In addition, more than 80% of parents participate in their child's education through teacher conferences, volunteering and serving on school committees after they leave the FACE program.

