

Community Liaison Position Description

Raven Reads in Southeast Alaska: A Culturally Responsive Kindergarten Readiness Program is a three-year project that will serve 215 Alaska Native families of 300 Alaska Native children age birth to 5 years old in the following communities: Angoon, Craig, Hoonah, Juneau, Klawock, Petersburg, Saxman, Sitka, Wrangell, and Yakutat.

Raven Reads is designed to improve kindergarten readiness and early literacy skills in Alaska Native children age birth to 5 years old. Raven Reads provides training to caregivers and Head Start teachers in best practices in early literacy and cultural connections. Raven Reads provides family literacy activities and age-appropriate and culturally relevant books to participating families.

The Community Liaison expectations are as follows:

- Attend 8 hours of professional development training
- Lead, coordinate and staff local family literary activities throughout the school year.
 - Host Family events from October through May
 - Identify parent helpers to assist with family literary activities
 - Identify cultural specialists to assist with family literacy activities
 - Work with Head Start staff, cultural specialists and parent leaders to plan family activity events
- Collect data (event sign-in sheets, surveys, etc)
- Participate in Baby Raven Reads team meetings
- Provide caregiver training
- Commit to 30 hours a month, 9 months a year
- Communicate and respond to SHI staff within 3 business days
- Identify Covid risks and aid in mitigation by following local tribal, city, and school's lead in accordance with SHI's risk metrics
- Equipment/inventory should be cared for and returned in a timely manner upon request

Families participating in Raven Reads will attend monthly activities that follow a classroom model and incorporate culturally-infused strategies proven to increase phonemic awareness, such as: pictures and puppets; rhymes, songs, and dance; and drums and clapping. Activities are designed to meet different skill levels. Families are encouraged to form groups based on children's ages.

Caregiver trainings provide families with additional literacy and development activities to do at home. The quarterly training will also help caregivers to understand stages of development and how to choose age appropriate books. Participants will feel better equipped to foster and increase young children's early literacy and social and emotional skills. The training will assist in translating cultural strengths into home literacy practices.