

Community Liaison Position Description

Raven Reads: A Culturally Sustaining Early Literacy and Kindergarten Readiness Program is a three-year project that will serve 240 Alaska Native children in the communities of Haines/Klukwan, Kake, Ketchikan, and Metlakatla.

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 16 hours of professional development training in Juneau
- Lead, coordinate and staff local family literary activities
 - Events on 2nd Saturdays of each month October – May
 - Identify Parent Helpers to assist with family literary activities
 - Identify Elders to assist with family literary activities
- Collect data (event sign-in sheets, surveys, etc)
- Provide caregiver training
- Participate in Baby Raven Reads team bimonthly meetings
- Commit to 25 hours a month, nine (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/or school's lead in accordance with SHI's risk metrics
- Properly care for program equipment/inventory and return 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.