

Expectations and Commitments

Community Liaisons

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.

Community Liaison will be the point of contact in the community for all communications regarding the project.

The **Community Liaison** expectations are as follows:

- Attend 16 hours of professional development in Juneau
- Coordinate and staff local family literary activities
 - Events on 2nd Saturdays each month October - May
 - Identify parent helpers to assist with family literary activities
 - Work with Head Start staff, cultural specialists, parent leaders to plan family activity events
- Data collection (event sign-in sheets, surveys, etc.)
- Provide caregiver training
- Participate in Raven Reads monthly team meetings
- Community Liaisons provide 30 hours a month 10 months a year

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.

