

FAMILIES IN ACTION

Report for Academic Year: 2008-2009

School Campus Canyon de Chelly Elementary School

Chinle, AZ Tribal Affiliation: Navajo

Facilitator: Priscilla Clark

Regional Coordinator: MaDonna Analla

The Families in Action program was used on the campus of the Canyon de Chelly Elementary School. Parents are encouraged to become more involved in their child's education. The group utilized the Families in Action curricula to help build trust, encourage leadership, and promote community.

COMMUNITY PROJECT:

◆ TRADITIONAL STORYTELLING

The Families in Action facilitator, Priscilla, organized several events at the Canyon de Chelly School, with the assistance of the administrator, Bonnie Clauschee. They held a Winter Story Series that focused on Navajo storytelling. During the Winter Story sessions, a Navajo elder from the community told the group stories including some about the Navajo creation story. The topics ranged from the coming of age ceremony for young women, specific instructions on how to raise children, and the reasons behind traditions like the blessing of a hogan. After the main talk there was a question and answer series. A unique aspect of the event was that the sessions were conducted entirely in the Navajo language and attendees found the sessions very valuable.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ◆ One accomplishment was the success of informing the community about all of the events. Priscilla made flyers and also utilized KTNN radio station to make announcements, as a result the events and the meetings were well attended.

CHALLENGES:

- ◆ The facilitator did not communicate any difficulties or challenges she had with running the program.

FAMILIES IN ACTION PROGRAM

In the Families in Action Program, parents and family members are encouraged to identify barriers, in their communities, to academic success and to proactively develop solutions that will assist their student in overcoming these barriers.



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