

Emmonak Site of Head Start Workshop



Participants in the Emmonak Workshop discuss the Head Start education plans.
— Photo by Marge Semaken



Celia Foley, speech and hearing therapist with the Special Services Delivery Project, demonstrates the use of the Head Start developmental assessment.
— Photo by Marge Semaken

Participants Plan for Health and Education

"Head Start is for parents, too" was the theme of a five-day workshop held in Emmonak on April 17-21. Staff and parents from six other Head Start villages traveled to Emmonak to attend the session of training and sharing of ideas.

The village of Emmonak was chosen as the site of the workshop because of its excellent program of parent involvement in Head Start.

Emmonak's Head Start Parent Council helped to get funds to build the new building for the program and has raised enough money to hire an additional teacher-instructor. Head Start parents in Emmonak are involved in all aspects of the pre-school program.

The workshop opened with an invocation by Father Henry Hargraves, and a welcome to Emmonak by Bart Agathluk, a member of the Village Council. Introductions were followed by a slide presentation of Emmonak along with another Head Start Program, entitled "A Gift of Time." The slide show illustrated ways in which the parents can become involved in the Head Start classroom and other Head Start services.

Dr. Scott Giebink, a consultant for the American Academy of Pediatrics, gave a presentation called "Parents, The Community, and Health Care." Dr. Giebink outlined the kind of services that Head Start children should have and then gave examples of how health services could be carried out by local programs.

Participants then broke up into village workshops to write the plans for health services delivery for the coming Head Start year. That afternoon, Dr. Bill Niendorff, a dentist for the U.S. Public Health Service in Kotzebue, showed slides depicting preventative dental care and good nutrition for the Head Start

children. Dr. Niendorff also presented activities that Head Start teachers could carry out in the classroom and things that the parents could do at home to insure good nutrition and dental care for their children.

In the afternoon, Dr. Giebink and Cecilia Foley, a speech and hearing therapist with the Special Services Delivery Project in Anchorage, gave the staff and parents a demonstration in assessing the growth and development of their children. Dr. Giebink and Ms. Foley answered questions from participants about particular behavior problems of Head Start Children. Dr. Giebink also showed the film, "Looking at Children."

On Saturday, Dr. Nancy Curtis, a child development consultant with the Alaska Methodist University, showed participants how to write an educational curriculum for children in Head Start.

RurAL CAP Field Trainers led individual village workshops to write educational plans for next year. Dr. Curtis also gave a demonstration on themes and lesson-planning and presented a film that she had made in Cambridge, Mass., where she attended the Harvard University.

The RurAL CAP Field Trainers and Dr. Curtis presented workshops on the development and parent/children activities in the home.

Roger Mooney, Director of Child Development stated that the success of the workshop was largely due to the enthusiasm and participation of parents and staff from Head Start villages.