

You Are Special

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This session is to provide students with an understanding of how special they are as being human beings and the positive attributes they have that make them different in the animal kingdom.

The following gives a brief introduction on the uniqueness of being a human. The mission is to build confidence in the student regarding their intelligence. This is the primary foundation of learning how to learn. Learning how to learn then becomes a goal for the instructor. The joy of learning is one of the fruits of this process.

Nouns

Human being	Lingít
Listenership	Kaa xeitsa.ax k _á a/shaawát
Precious children of the earth	Aan yatx'u sáani
Intelligence	Yaakoosge
Respect	Yaa at wooné
Togetherness	Wooch.éen

Verb Phrases

You are a human being. You are to listen.	Lingít áwé wa.é kaa x'éide kakGees.áax.
You are a human being. You are Intelligent.	Lingít áwé wa.é yáa kududzigéi.
You are a human being.	Lingít áwé wa.é.
You will respect all things.	Yáa at yakGeenéi.

Tlingit Educational Relevancy

Tlingit educators, long before there was an educational system as we know it, now had a very sophisticated and effective educational system that helped them settle the unknown as Tlingit Aani (Southeast Alaska) for ten thousand years or more.

The primary goal of the educator was to impress upon the mind, the body, soul and spirit of their children that they were very special knowing right from wrong, having the capacity to learn because they were born with intelligence and knew that to listen is a very important characteristic of being human...listening for a purpose...the purpose to learn.



Application

Aan yatx'u sáani → highly respected and honored children of the earth. This phrase is very important in letting your student know that she/he is highly respected and that he/she is very unique in being a human being. This is the lead-in to the four phrases (corner posts) of Tlingit education; this cannot be over-emphasized at all. It can be repeated as the significant attributes of being human is being introduced.

Kaa x'éide kakGees.áax → the Tlingit educator taught children to listen, to be still, to be quiet and to be focused; this requires discipline. Discipline is at the heart of learning how to listen, pay attention, to learn to read, write, do arithmetic and to learn how to speak a language.

Have students become focused. Share with them that it is the person that learns to be still and become focused that can get a seal, deer, moose, mountain goat, salmon, etc. This discipline is important because in the past, our ancestors did not have written material. They had to learn to listen.

Have students sit still for thirty seconds. Compliment them for being still. Bring to their attention that 30 seconds seems like a long time when it is only a half a minute. Learning to discipline oneself is a major factor in **learning how to learn** in the Tlingit Education System.

Verb Phrases

A person can learn to make the sound of...

Dog barking	Kéitl ashaa
Grizzly bear growling	Xóots toox'
Canadian geese flying by	T'aawák_yandakinee
Songbird singing	Ts'ítskw at shee
Wolf howling	Gooch eex'í/ gaaxí
North wind breeze	Xóon kawsinook
Waterfall	X'áas

