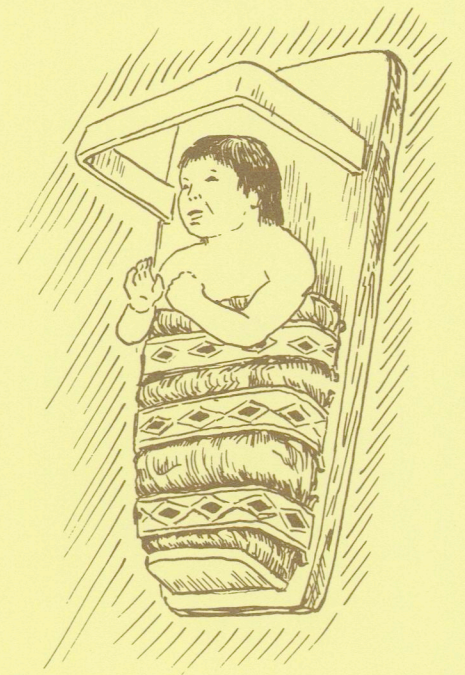
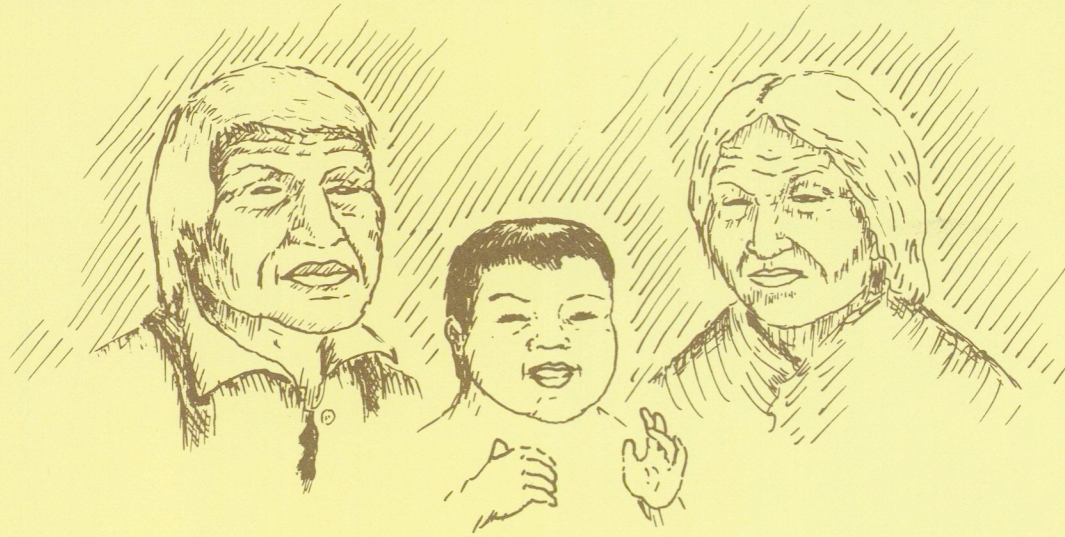
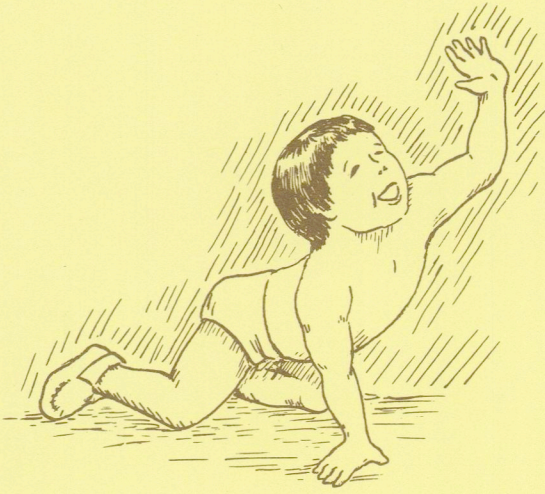


WHY OUR CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE INDIAN NAMES



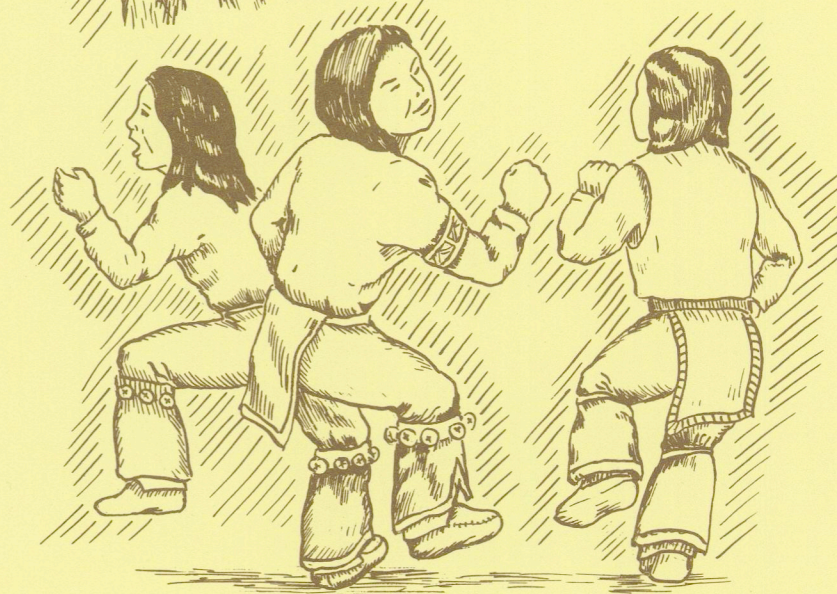
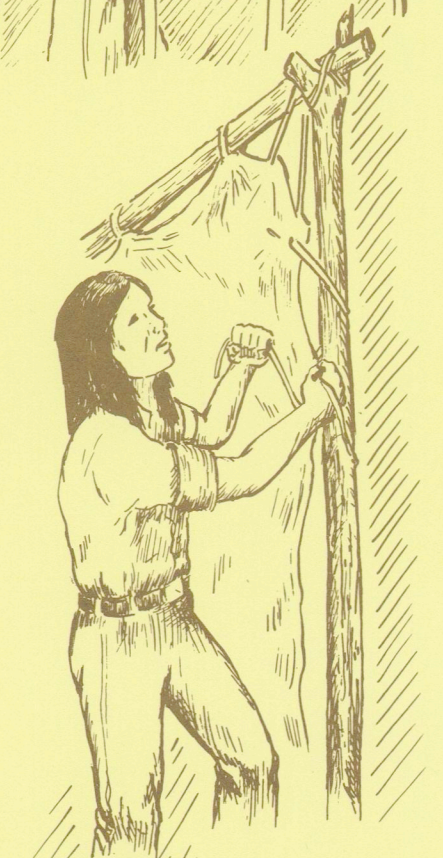
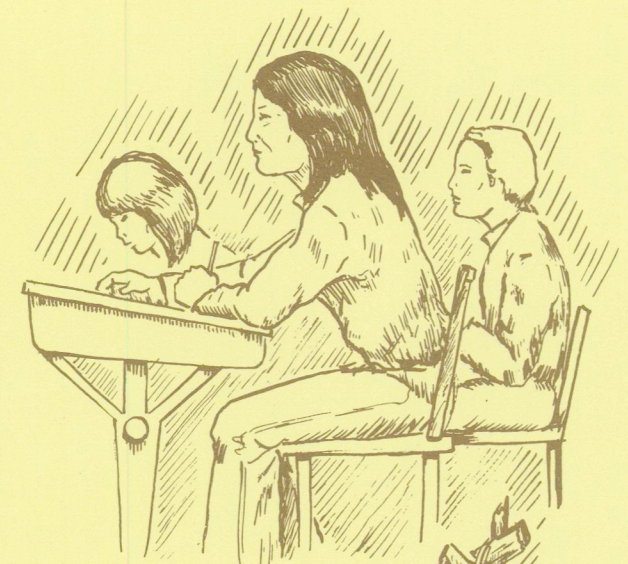
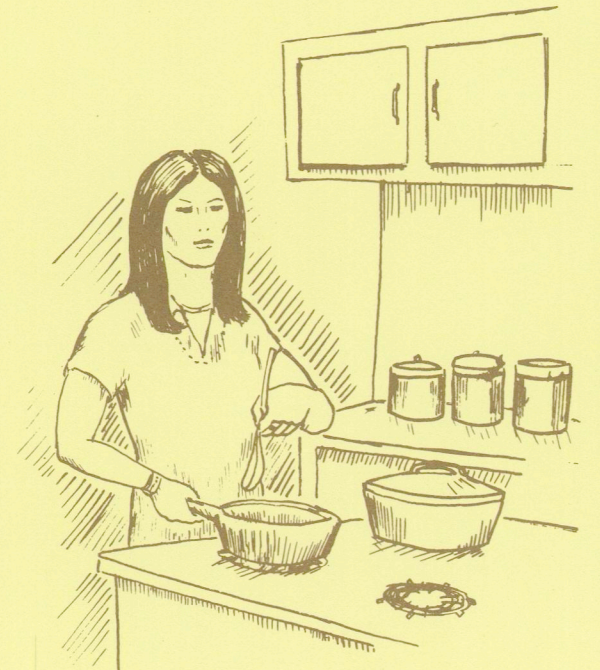
WHEN A CHILD IS BORN, A NAME IS CHOSEN BY ONE OF THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE NAME IS IN THE LANGUAGE OF HIS PEOPLE. THE GREAT SPIRIT WILL IDENTIFY THE CHILD BY THIS NAME. IN CEREMONIES, PRAYERS, PUBLIC DUTIES AND IN HEALING RITUALS ALL THE POWERS OF THE SPIRIT WORLD WILL BE AT THE SERVICE OF THE HOLDER OF THIS NAME.

THE NAME IS BELIEVED TO CONTAIN THE THINKING PART OF THE SOUL. AROUND THIS NAME THERE WILL GROW A KIND OF PERSONALITY. AS THE CHILD GROWS, IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO USE HIS OWN NAME.

WHEN HE DOES WELL AS AN UPRIGHT AND USEFUL PERSON OF FINE CHARACTER, OTHER GENERATIONS TO COME WILL SEEK AFTER THAT NAME TO HOLD IT PROUDLY. THUS A NAME WILL LIVE FOREVER.

BEFORE US, WE HAVE A SPECIAL GIFT FROM THE GREAT SPIRIT. TO ALL YOU PEOPLE, ACKNOWLEDGE THIS NAME AND USE IT WHENEVER YOU REFER TO THIS CHILD. TEACH THIS CHILD THE LANGUAGE OF OUR PEOPLE: ENCOURAGE HIM TO BE STRONG IN OUR WAYS.

WE MUST ENCOURAGE OUR CHILDREN TO CARRY OUR OWN NAMES, FOR IT WILL HELP TO KEEP OUR CULTURE ALIVE. OUR CULTURE IS THE WAY OF LIFE THAT THE GREAT SPIRIT GAVE US, AS NATIVE PEOPLE. THE GREAT SPIRIT WILL HEAR US ONLY BY OUR NATIVE NAMES FOR THESE NAMES COME FROM THE NATURAL WORLD. THIS IS OUR WAY!



Donald A. Sharrou



NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN TRAVELLING COLLEGE