**Enji Maajtaawaad Early Years Centre**

**Language Programming**

The following are a summary of the 4 stages we have developed and from this we have had success with increasing the use and familiarity of Anishinaabemowin among our staff, and subsequently it is being transmitted to the children who attend our early years centre, their families, and the community in general.

**Stage one:** Enji Maajtaawaad’s language transmission strategy began by increasing the number of words and phrases staff can say fluently by providing a word or phrase-a-day to be practiced and mastered. This evolved into 25 words or phrases being provided each month for 8 months of each year. The other 4 months are a review period. The phrases selected are consistently used with the children. They are posted onto the Quizlet App with pronunciation. Our language speakers collaborate on the most commonly used Ojibwe expressions from each of their regions.

**Stage two:** Our language mentors support the staff with learning how to say and properly use each phrase in live-context in the class room with the children. They do this by singing songs and playing games repetitively, and with everyday general interaction and conversation with staff and children. The children take the words and phrases into their homes and inspire interest within their families and community to learn those words as well.

**Stage three:** Our EarlyOn staff coordinate with our language speakers to create resources following the monthy phrase list. This includes crafts, games, songs, and family events where Anishinaabemowin phrases are practiced. We offer Lunch and Learns for staff and community to join. There is also a weekly afternoon Online Zoom class that supports learners who are not able to attend in-person classes to access the phrases we share, and engage with the speakers within our centre.

**Stage Four:**. We host an annual Anishinaabemowin Speaking Challenge where COTTFN members, employees, and residents may particiate in where there are prizes to be won. This creates an opportunity for participants to master the phrases, and demonstrate their knowledge in a fun and challenging way. This process builds confidence in the particpants, and creates a further interest in Anishinaabemowin revitalization. We facilitate online & in-person classes to support participants