

**Themes from Lytton Community Visit (Nlha'7kapmx Child & Family Services)  
July 8, 2010**

**Question. How were children taken care of in your community?**

- *We have our own rules/laws that are more relevant*
- *Children are our future*
- *Family, Elders, extended family, everyone has a role in teaching and raising children*
- *Celebration and ceremony are important and bring families and communities together*
- *Connection between our spiritual beliefs and our teachings*
- *Residential school experience was life altering, traumatic, and tore families apart, and led to the loss of traditional practices and parenting skills; as a result, need to relearn/teach parenting skills*

**Question: What is needed?**

- *Need services and programs within communities/on reserve*
- *We need funding for prevention services*
- *Need to help families before they break down, to build community capacity and ensure that children can remain in their homes and communities*
- *Need to address the underlying issues that result in children in care, i.e. drugs, alcohol, and poverty*

**Question: Who needs to be involved?**

- *Chief and council and Elders need to be involved in decision-making about children; parents should go before a group of Elders rather than to the courts systems.*
- *Parents and children need to be involved and listened to*
- *Theme: A supportive agency, knowledgeable of the community and of the people*

**Question: How should practice look?**

- *Good practice is dependant on building trusting relationships, being a role model for parents and children, and being able to make decisions that are in the best interest of families*
- *Parents need guidance and support and to be treated with respect when their children are removed/can't separate child and parents*
- *Identify natural resources within the community*
- *Keep children connected to their community/culture even if in care*