

Ktunaxa Kinbasket – Elders/Community Leaders Themes

RE: Taking care of children - How are children taken care of in your community?

- *The role of families and extended family is the norm for caring for children - children need to always stay connected to their families and communities*
- *Traditionally extended family would step in to take over care and/or teach the children*
- *Need to teach children about their family*

RE: Decision making – How are decisions made about issues relating to caring for children

- *We need to trust our children – listen to our children & include them in decisions*
- *Discipline of children as a shared responsibility between parents and community*
- *The decision about who is the best person to raise/teach a child if the parents are unable is one that involves many people, including but not limited to (extended) family members*

RE: What are (traditional) practices that support families and communities

- *Inclusion of traditional celebrations and ceremonies helps support families and communities*
- *Maintaining respectful, nonjudgmental relationships with all families and family members is key; make it safe to ask for help (i.e. strength based practice)*
- *Authority over ourselves/our jurisdictions*

Re: practices that get in the way of creating healthy families and communities

- *Removal of children and supervision that does not acknowledge child/family/community connections*

Ktunaxa Kinbasket – Staff Themes

RE: Taking care of children - How are children taken care of in your community?

- *The role of families and extended family is the norm for caring for children and is paramount*

RE: Decision making – How are decisions made about issues relating to caring for children?

- *The decision about who is the best person to raise/teach a child if the parents are unable is one that should involve many people: community leaders (e.g., chief and council), elders, families*

RE: What are (traditional) practices that support families and communities

- *Maintaining respectful, nonjudgmental relationships with all families and family members is key; make it safe to ask for help (i.e. strength based practice)*
- *Inclusion of traditional ceremonies and processes to help support families and communities*

Re: What should happen if immediate family members (aunts, uncles, grandparents) are unable to help care for children?

- *Look toward the community, but be sensitive to issues and challenges facing community*

Re: practices that get in the way of creating healthy families and communities

- *Existing standards are too high or are out of synch with community*
- *Removal of children and supervision that does not acknowledge child/family/community connections*

Re: Other issues

- *Lack of funding for community-based prevention and support programs*
- *Location of Ktunaxa may be a barrier for families*