

Embracing Indigenous Pedagogy
Lessons From an Educator on a
Central Alberta Reserve

Teacher PROMPTS



1. How does the concept of Wacotowin (relationships) shape our teaching approach?

*Example: Wacotowin reminds us to prioritize trust and connection with students before academic content, creating a safe and welcoming space for learning.

2. How can we integrate Indigenous values into our classroom setup and routines?

*Example: Display key Indigenous values, such as kindness ("Wachitawin"), as part of our classroom norms and expectations.

3. What is one change we can make to honor students' identities more fully?

*Example: Using students' cultural experiences as a starting point for lessons and discussions.

4. How can the idea of "Two-Eyed Seeing" apply to our teaching practice?

*Example: We can balance Indigenous ways of knowing with non-Indigenous pedagogy to give students diverse and meaningful learning experiences.

5. How can we incorporate Indigenous language into our daily teaching?

*Example: Using terms such as "Wacotowin" for relationships and "Wachitawin" for kindness as part of our class vocabulary.

6. What role does identity play in student success?

*Example: When students feel connected to their identity, they feel valued and more motivated to engage in learning.

7. How can nature and movement be integrated into our lessons?

*Example: Conducting outdoor storytelling, nature walks, or math lessons that encourage movement and hands-on learning.

8. Why is it important to attend local Indigenous events such as powwows or round dances?

*Example: It builds relationships with the community and deepens our understanding of Indigenous traditions.

9. How can teachers respectfully approach elders for knowledge and guidance?

*Example: Offer proper protocols, such as tobacco, and approach with humility, time, and respect.

10. What are the challenges teachers face when integrating Indigenous knowledge?

*Example: Fear of "getting it wrong," which can be addressed by asking questions and seeking guidance.