

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENRICHING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Ask families to bring pictures of their families including their children. Hang at the children's eye level, checking with parents first for their permission.
- Provide materials and activities that show other *cultures* and people from many different backgrounds in positive ways so children can see and experience how diverse humans are.
- Play music from many cultures, such as Native American flute music or others that connect with the cultures in the group. Provide instruments from various cultures, such as rain sticks, drums, and maracas for children to play.
- Use fabrics from various cultures to decorate the room. Display posters and pictures of children and families from many different cultures and regions around the country and around the world.
- Include clothes reflecting different aspects of families, communities, and cultures, such as a dance shawl, in the *dramatic play* area for different seasons.
- Include multicultural dolls and other multicultural items in areas around the room, such as the dramatic play area and math area. Change materials and props according to the interests of the children.
- Provide books about many different people, places, and traditions around the country and around the world.

- Set up dramatic play areas that give children opportunities to explore various roles in the community, such as a play store so children can use play money to purchase things.
- Label items around the room in the *home language(s)* of children, such as Lakota, and include these languages when introducing different topics (include Lakota names for animals when doing a project or theme related to animals).
- Include wordless picture books, creating opportunities to use words in various languages.
- Include pictures and books about various homes, transportation, and geographic places, discussing their similarities and differences.

