



**Curriculum Links**  
**The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 3:**  
**Children and The Earth School**

**Suggested Grade Levels:**

Grades 9 – 12

**Curriculum Themes and**

- Aboriginal Education
- Administrators and Counsellors
- High school role models
- Professional Development
- School Planning

**Summary of Episode:**

Children of the Earth School applies the concept of Aboriginality in the education system through the lessons of the ancestors. In 1991, Winnipeg School Division Number One began what was considered a bold undertaking. They established a school in the North End that emphasized Aboriginal culture and academics. It allowed First Nations youth the freedom to practice their culture in a place where it was once prohibited. Children of The Earth School is a model for others to follow, as it scores highly in a poll of the top high schools in all of Canada.

### **Vocabulary:**

- Academic challenges lost beliefs
- Aboriginal Education
- Aboriginal Perspective
- Academics
- Accepting
- Ancestors
- Assimilation
- Banned practice
- Building Community
- Careers
- Change
- Choice
- Classrooms
- Cultural Programs
- Grow and Develop
- Identity
- Integration
- Languages
- Learn together
- MacLean Magazine
- Medicine
- Parenting
- Poverty
- Pow wow
- Renounce culture
- Residential Schools
- Social challenges
- Spiritual awareness
- Systems of education
- Time
- Tools
- Top high school
- Traditional Ceremony
- Traditional Teacher
- Traditions
- Undoing wrongs
- Valid
- Values
- Winnipeg School Division

### **Suggested Activities:**

- Discuss what “Aboriginal Education” means. Why is it NOT multicultural education?
- Why do you think history plays a role in student success today?
- How have the schools improved in the last 100 years? How has Children of the Earth School shown this?
- What are some other improvements we can continue to do? What can we learn from Children of the Earth School and incorporate into our school setting?
- Do you think Aboriginal Education is just for Aboriginal People? Why or why not?
- What are some misconceptions about Aboriginal People that can be clarified? How can that be done?
- Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives is a priority for many school divisions. What are the goals of your school that can help achieve this?

**Suggested Activities (Continued):**

- Why is the Integration of Aboriginal Perspectives so important?
- Do you think teaching Aboriginal languages is important in schools?
- Why is Aboriginal Academic Achievement so important?
- Do a book study and discuss elements of book related to history of Canada and current practices.

**Additional Resources (online):**

- Manitoba Aboriginal Education Directorate  
<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/index.html>

**Additional Resources (text):**

- *Aboriginal Education in Canada*  
by John W. Friesen and Virginia Lyons Friesen ©2002 Detselig Enterprises Ltd.
- *Hidden in Plain Sight Contributions of Aboriginal Peoples to Canadian Identity and Culture*  
edited by David R. Newhouse, Cora J. Voyageur, Dan Beavon © 2005 University of Toronto.
- *Stolen Continents Conquest and Resistance in the Americas*  
by Ronald Wright© 1992, 2003 Penguin Canada.

**Related Episodes:**

- The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 4  
Restoring the Sacred

## Plans and Goals

What are your long term goals for integrating Aboriginal Perspectives?

How will you meet these goals? What are your short term goals? Be sure to make your goals manageable and attainable. Success is the key.