

Theme: World Wildlife Day Part 1

Date: March 2, 2021

Hello StrongStart friends,

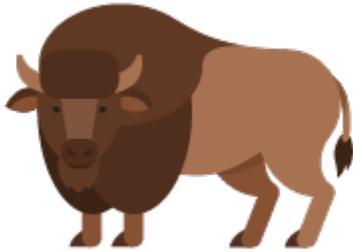
Today's email is put together by Teacher Valerie (from Xpey').



Wednesday March 3 is World Wildlife Day. Today we will learn more about a specific wild animal called the buffalo. The buffalo is also one of the 7 Grandfathers' teachings. These teachings have been passed on from generations to generations through oral stories and ceremonies in Indigenous communities. **The buffalo represents respect.**



The buffalo - *Mnaadendimowin* - symbolizes respect. The buffalo respects balance of all living things and the needs of others. Historically, the Indigenous people of North America depended on the buffalo for survival and used every part of the animal. For example, the hides were used for tipis and clothing and the meat was used for food. The tendons were used for bow strings and the horns were used for cups. To honour all creation, we must have respect for the animal. There is no waste. Share and give away what you do not need.



Another way to show respect is to take turns talking in order to fully listen to what others are saying. The Talking Stick is used in many Indigenous cultures. It is a powerful "communication tool" that ensures a code of conduct of respect. The person holding the stick, and only that person, is designated as having the right to speak and all others must listen quietly and respectfully.



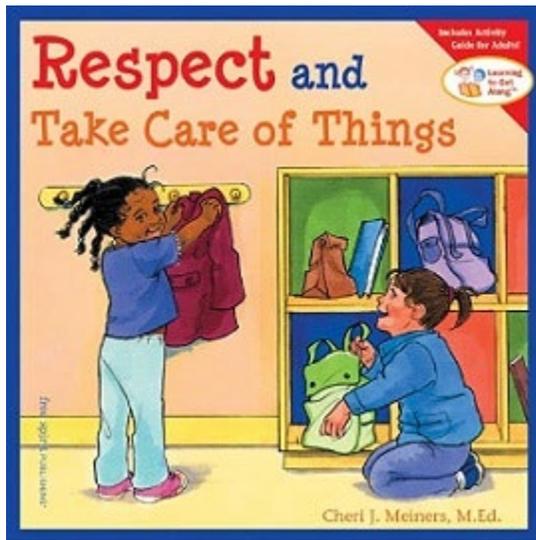
You can make your own Talking Stick at home. First, find a good stick (not too big, sturdy) from outside. Gather decorative supplies like strings, yarn, pipe cleaners and feathers. Decorate your stick!

After making your Talking Stick, here are a few games to try with your family:

- **I Spy with My Little Eyes** - The person who says "I Spy" holds the Talking Stick. Others take turn guessing when they have the stick.
- **Story Telling** - Have one person holding the stick start a story. Each person takes a turn adding a part to the story. Make sure everyone is listening to the person with the stick!
- **Simon Says/Follow the Leader** - The person who has the Talking Stick will be the one who lead the game.

Here is a book about respect called "Respect and Take Care of Things" by Cheri J. Meiners

- <https://youtu.be/XzCwxudjW0c>



We will finish off this email with a circle time with Teacher Valerie about Moe the Mouse and the Talking Stick - https://youtu.be/P8ibQE_x7Sw

Vancouver Public Library has Facebook Live Storytimes, Babytime and Toddlertime on Zoom and Virtual Storytime on YouTube.

- Toddlertime on Zoom: <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/events/search/q=Toddler%20Storytime%20on%20Zoom>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VPLKidsGroup/permalink/305851480553261/>
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/vancouverlibrary

