

FEATURE STORY:

Hoop Dancing, Town of Creighton

Channa Senyk, Creighton Recreation



Community
Initiatives Fund

The Town of Creighton offers hoop dancing classes to children ages 5-12, reaching children and families from all backgrounds and cultures who are interested in learning the art of hoop dance and its teachings.

Currently two separate classes are being offered with 8 participants per class to follow Saskatchewan's COVID-19 restrictions. The venue is large enough to allow for distancing and masks are mandatory in order to participate, for everyone's safety during these times.

Since the start of the pandemic, children have been isolated from their peers and family members outside their immediate household. This program provides an opportunity for interaction and socialization in a safe environment. We saw the excitement and happiness on the children's faces when they came to the first class and saw other children.

We have a student who is deaf in the class, and the facilitator uses sign language to speak to this student. This has led to the entire classroom picking up on and using some sign language to communicate!

Hoop dance demonstrates the Seven Teachings: courage, love, wisdom, truth, honesty, humility and respect. Students eagerly listen to the teachings and are enthused to learn the dances and symbolism behind each. For example, the teachings discuss being unique like butterfly wing colours and how all of the colours of skin are of the four directions. Other teachings talk of sharing kindness and positivity.



Sophia, a ten year old new to hoop dance, said she was so excited to be able to learn hoop dance and that she is going to continue with hoop dancing after this class is over. She took home some hoops for her younger brother and was eager to teach him what she learned.

