

A'tukwaqnn Drama Circle

Mattio visits his Kiju

This is the story of Mattio. Mattio is a Mi'kmaw child from Kjiptuk who is travelling to visit his family in the Mi'kmaw community of Sipekne'katik. While in Sipekne'katik, Mattio interacts with his grandmother and cousins and experiences a variety of Mi'kmaw values.

Is everyone ready? And the story begins...





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Mattio visits his Kiju”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

You STEP into the circle and slowly WAVE your arm across your body. Then, ANNOUNCE dramatically:

“And the story begins...”

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“And the story begins...”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to WAKE UP, RUB YOUR EYES AND STRETCH YOUR ARMS. MAKE a stretching sound! Then, DECLARE with happiness:

“Today I am leaving the city to visit my Kiju and cousins in Sipekne’katik!”

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Today I am leaving the city to visit my Kiju and cousins in Sipekne’katik!”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to REACH into your pocket, PULL OUT a pair of glasses, PUT THEM ON and READ from a note.

In your serious voice, SAY:

“Kiju is a Mi’kmaw term for Grandmother.”



STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Kiju is the Mi’kmaw word for Grandmother.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

PRETEND you are a race car driver, DRIVING around the circle, MAKING sound effects. Once you STOP, SAY in a super happy voice:

*“Kiju! Tata! Aunties! Uncles! Cousins!
I’m here! I have arrived.”*

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

*“Kiju! Tata! Aunties! Uncles! Cousins!
I’m here! I have arrived.”*

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

IMAGINE you are Kiju. Pretend to be at the stove STIRRING a pot of stew. ACT SURPRISED and say:

“Oh hello, Kwis! My grandson is finally here!”



Now YELL in a strong voice:

“Kids! Come greet your cousin, Mattio!”

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Kids! Come greet your cousin, Mattio!”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

WALK around and pretend to SEARCH for frogs.

Then, joyfully DECLARE:

“My cousin is here! I’m gonna take him trapping, and we’re gonna go swimming and hunt for frogs at the pond.”

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“My cousin is here! I’m gonna take him trapping, and we’re gonna go swimming and hunt for frogs at the pond.”

and SEE them swim back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend that you are Kiju, PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HIPS and in a kind voice SAY:

“But, kids! It’s not time to swim yet!”

Pretend to SWIM back into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“But, kids! It’s not time to swim yet!”

and SEE them swim back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

SCRATCH your head, TILT your head, and THINK.
Then EXCLAIM:

*“Hmm, I almost forgot that the water is
being used by the bugs and fish to lay eggs.
As humans, it’s not our turn to swim because
we need to respect the water.”*

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Hmm, I almost forgot that the water is being used by the bugs and fish to lay eggs. As humans, it’s not our turn to swim because we need to respect the water.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to CARRY a basket and WALK around the circle, PICKING UP garbage. STOP and SAY:

“All people, all things, deserve respect — the trees, the water, the birds, the animals, we are all interdependent.”



HUG YOURSELF, then SAY:

“I’m a part of this sacred cycle.”

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

"I'm a part of this sacred cycle."

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to HOLD UP the shiniest and smoothest rock you have ever seen. SHOW EVERYONE this magnificent rock. SAY:

"Sharing is one of the most important Mi'kmaw values. The Mi'kmaq shared everything from food, to land, to resources."



Pretend to gently PUT THE ROCK BACK onto the land. SAY:

The rock doesn't belong to me. I put it back where I found it because I only take what I need."

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“The rock doesn’t belong to me. I put it back where I found it because I only take what I need.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...

STEP into the circle!

IMAGINE you are Kiju. Using a cane, WALK around the circle, hunched over and weak, needing help. SAY:

“Children, do you see that rock? Spirit is present in all of nature. We call certain rocks grandfathers because they have been here since the dawn of time. They are old. They have witnessed many things.”

Now WAIT for your grandson to help you go back to your spot in the circle.





Get ready!

When you HEAR Kiju say...

“They are old. They have witnessed many things.”

and SEE her standing in the circle waiting...



STEP into the circle!

OFFER YOUR ARM to Kiju, slowly HELPING her back to her spot in the circle. Once she is back to her spot, SAY:

“Elders are held in the highest esteem because they are assumed to understand best this interdependence and our place in it.”

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Elders are held in the highest esteem because they are assumed to understand best this interdependence and our place in it.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to GET A CHAIR for Kiju to sit in. SAY:

*“Kesalul Kiju! (Geh-suh-loo-I Gee-jew)
That means I love you Grandma!
Mi'kmaw language contains knowledge, which
provides wisdom and understanding that are only
available when speaking and thinking in Mi'kmaw.”*

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Mi’kmaw language contains knowledge, which provides wisdom and understanding that are only available when speaking and thinking in Mi’kmaw.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...

STEP into the circle!

SAY:



“Everyone! Clap your hands and dance the Ko’jua really quick in a circle. 1-2-3 GO!”

THROW your hands up in the air and DANCE really quick around the circle. KEEP DANCING until someone joins you. Then BURST OUT LAUGHING because you are having fun!

LAUGH all the way back to your spot.





Get ready!

When you SEE someone throw their hands up in the air and dance really quick...

STEP into the circle and JOIN THEM!

LAUGH and HAVE FUN dancing. SAY:

“Mi’kmaw sense of humour and humility are important. We learn to laugh at ourselves and with others, both are important in dealing with situations that might seem hopeless, and they help us to either accept them or turn the situation into something positive. The Ko’jua makes me laugh and have fun!”



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CROSS YOUR ARMS across your chest and SMILE big.

WALK BACK to your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you SEE someone cross their arms across their chest and smile big...

STEP into the circle!



RUB your tummy! SAY:

"I've had a long journey from the city to Sipekne'katik. My tummy is hungry. Kiju, Cousins, Aunties, Uncles...what should we eat?"

RUB YOUR TUMMY all the way back to your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you SEE someone rub their tummy all the way back to their spot in the circle...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to COUNT the votes for what to eat for lunch. SAY:

“It looks like four people want to eat Kiju’s famous moose meat stew and three people want to eat Kiju’s famous eel stew. So, it’s four against three...”



PAUSE for a moment , then SAY:

“Hmmm...”

WHILE WALKING BACK to your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Hmmm....”

While they are walking back to their spot in the circle...



FRANTICALLY STEP into the circle while WAVING YOUR HANDS in the air!

SAY:

“Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Just because it’s four against three doesn’t mean that should be the decision. Decision making involves consensus.”



STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone declare...

“...Decision making involves consensus.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



ENERGETICALLY JUMP into the circle and SAY:

*“Consensus? That’s a big word.
What does that mean?”*

Pretend to PULL a dictionary out of your bag and LOOK UP the information. Then SAY:

*“Ahh, consensus is about finding what
works for everybody!”*



STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“...consensus is finding what works for everybody!”

and SEE them step back into their spot...

STEP into the circle!

CLEAR YOUR THROAT, ahem! MAKE A CONFIDENT STANCE. Then SAY:

“Acting through consensus is an important Mi’kmaw cultural value. Beginning at the family level and extending to the districts of the Grand Council, we seek consensus rather than just majority rule whenever possible. Oh boy, that was a lot of talking. I need a drink of water.”

WALK around the circle PRETENDING your throat is really dry, SAYING:

“Water, water...”

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Water, water...”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to CARRY a big boiling pot of stew.
PLACE the heavy pot onto the table. SAY:

*“Food is respected and is not to be played
with or wasted. Each person should take only
what they can consume.”*



BLOW ON YOUR HANDS because that pot was hot! STEP
BACK into your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Food is respected and is not to be played with or wasted. Each person should take only what they can consume.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...

STEP into the circle!



Pretend to LOOK FOR KIJU. Look behind the teacher, at the ceiling, behind another person, circling them as you go. SAY:

“Hey! Where did Kiju go? Who is going to watch Mattio now?”

SHRUG YOUR SHOULDERS and WALK BACK to your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

*“Where did Kiju go?
Who is going to watch Mattio now?”*

and SEE them step back into their spot...

STEP OVER to that person!



PAT THEM on the shoulder, REASSURE THEM that it will be okay.
SAY:

*“Don’t worry, Kiju went to Bingo. The care of
children is everyone’s responsibility. Look at all
of our cousins, aunties, and uncles here! We
must all make an effort to protect all children.”*

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone talking about Kiju going to Bingo...
and SEE them step back into their spot...

STEP into the circle!



WALK AROUND with your arms outstretched, POINTING to lots
and lots of food. SAY:

*“Look at ALL of this food! We have so much!
Let’s share this with everyone.”*

STEP BACK into your spot!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Let’s share this with everyone.”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

With great energy, SAY:

“Everyone! Help me invite all of the community for a big feast! Let’s help our cousin Mattio meet everyone in Sipekne’katik! Everyone scramble and find a new place in the circle!”

Let everyone scramble for five seconds. COUNT 1-2-3-4-5.
Then SAY:

“Stop! Phew! Everyone is invited. Wela’lioq! Thanks!”



WALK BACK to your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you HEAR someone say...

“Wela’liog! Thanks!”

and SEE them step back into their spot...



STEP into the circle!

Pretend to TAKE OUT some sweetgrass from your medicine pouch.
SAY:

“Sweetgrass is ceremonial and is used as an offering. We also use tobacco, sage and cedar through ceremonies like smudging. We honour our ancestors and give thanks to the Creator.”



Pretend to HONOUR the Creator.

TAKE YOUR TIME and
WALK BACK to your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you SEE someone honour the Creator...
and SEE them step back into their spot...

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STEP into the circle!

IMAGINE that you are Mattio. MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE,
SMILE, LOOK AROUND the circle.
You are filled with happiness. SAY:

*“Wow, I’m lucky to have such a big family to
teach me all of these cultural values. They
are important to my identity and they make
me feel proud to be Mi’kmaw.”*



RAISE YOUR HAND as if holding an eagle feather.
SAY with pride:

“M’sit No’kmaq”

WALK BACK to your spot in the circle!





Get ready!

When you SEE Mattio raise his hand and say...

“M’sit No’kmaq”

and SEE him step back into his spot...



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Take ONE STEP forward and SAY:

*“Circles are a sacred Mi’kmaw concept.
A circle is a reflection of life, cycles, patterns,
experiences, and even the healing journey.”*

TAKE THE HAND of the person on either side of you and
INVITE THEM to do the same, until everyone is holding hands
in unity.





Get ready!

When everyone has held hands in an act of unity, you will then DECLARE:

“M’sit No’kmaq!”

