



**Manitoba Indigenous  
Cultural Education  
Centre Inc.**  
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# Learning and Teaching Anishinaabemowin Through Immersion

Kit for Babies and their Caregivers

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Doing Immersion Differently is a project of the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre.

These language learning kits were created in collaboration with Anishinaabemowin language teachers, Anishinaabe language learners, MICEC Staff and a team of consultants and experts. We wanted to create a functional take-home resource for language teachers and students that is accessible for both online and in-person learning.

This project took place from 2020-2021 and demonstrates an immersion-learning philosophy through videos, activities, and language learning games and also includes video, audio and visual aids.

These language-learning kits were developed in the spirit of passing down Anishinaabemowin to future generations. Please feel free to share these kits with your kids, families and communities at no cost. Our goal is to provide and highlight resources that enable every language speaker to become a teacher and for every language learner to become a language speaker.

We give thanks to all of the committed teachers, speakers and learners who guided and inspired the work of this project.

Please visit [micec.com](http://micec.com) to learn more about this project and gain access more language learning resources.

**Doing Immersion Differently is a project of the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre, and made possible with funding by:**

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### KIT CONTENTS

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#### ***Babies and their Caregivers Kit Overview***

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The overview serves as a starting point for using this kit. It includes an explanation about who this kit is intended for as well as an overview of the materials included, a statement about MICEC's immersion philosophy, and a list of further resource.

#### ***Bedtime Book Activity***

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This activity explains how to use the customizable baby book so parents can select the appropriate Anishinaabemowin phrases related to their child's unique bedtime routine.

#### ***Bedtime Vocabulary***

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This vocabulary provides a word and phrase list that supports the bedtime book activity.

#### ***Additional Bedtime Vocabulary***

***Pg. 13***

This vocabulary provides a word and phrase list that supports further Anishinaabe language use during bedtime.

#### ***Ozhiitaadaa Ji-Nibaayang!: A Bedtime Book***

***Download at [www.micec.com](http://www.micec.com)***

This bedtime book is a google slides presentation that includes Anishinaabemowin text, English translations and audio of a first language speaker pronouncing the phrases.

#### ***My Custom Bedtime Book***

***Download at [www.micec.com](http://www.micec.com)***

This customizable bedtime book allows caregivers to focus on phrases that are relevant to their family bedtime routine and customize it for their child or children.

#### ***Ariya & Logan's Bedtime Book***

***Download at [www.micec.com](http://www.micec.com)***

This custom bedtime book is an example of a My Custom Bedtime Book that has been customized for use by one family.

## BABIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS KIT OVERVIEW

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This language learning kit was created in collaboration with Anishinaabemowin language teachers, Anishinaabemowin language learners, and the MICEC Language Development Team. It is designed to be a functional take-home resource for babies and their caregivers to bond and learn the Anishinaabemowin language.

This kit is for babies and their caregivers. Caregivers are not expected to have any background in the language, only a desire to listen, learn and speak the language with the babies in their lives.

Materials included in this kit are immersion-learning philosophy, a bedtime book activity, plus both audio and visual aids. This activity includes a list of materials needed, goals of the activity, learning objectives, steps to follow, adaptations and scaffolding.

Immersion learning is a language-learning philosophy that emphasizes the importance of immersing learners in the target language as much as possible in order to enhance the learner's fluency and comfort in the language. In immersion learning, Anishinaabemowin is more than a conversation topic, it is the language of the conversation.

Creating and maintaining immersion contexts can be challenging. Due to colonization and sustained attacks on Indigenous languages, Indigenous language learners increasingly outnumber speakers. Not all caregivers feel confident or able to immerse their baby in the language. This kit provides phrases, audio and visuals that enable any caregiver to speak in the language daily as they and their baby progress through their bedtime routine each night.

These language-learning kits were developed in the spirit of passing down Anishinaabemowin to future generations. Please feel free to share these kits with your kids, families and communities at no cost. When we learn our language, we develop a strong sense of self and we ensure that the knowledge of our ancestors is passed down to future generations. We wish you the best on your language learning journey!

## FURTHER LANGUAGE RESOURCES FOR BABIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

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Bemidji State University's **Oshkaabewis Native Journal** provides free and downloadable online copies of journal issues that include audio as well as written transcriptions in Ojibwe and translations in English. Of particular interest for babies and their caregivers is Volume 7, Number 2 Spring 2002 features the late Anna Gibbs who shared many wonderful stories, songs and useful language phrases for parents of babies, including "**How to Talk to Your Baby in Indian**" on page 110. Audio files allow you to hear all of the stories, songs and useful language phrases for parents of babies, including "**Ezhi-ganoonad Gibiibiyensim Anishinaabemong**" (How to Talk to Your Baby in Indian) Disc 2, Track 10 and Disc 3, Track 01. **Wiigwaas Press**, in collaboration with Oshkaabewis Native Journal, have created a video showcasing this work

<https://fb.watch/8N7woMZDku/>

<https://www.bemidjistate.edu/airc/community-resources/journal/history-and-back-issues>

**Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang** provides language curriculum kits for families to use at-home with their babies and toddlers. Visit their site for wordlists, audio files, lesson plans, videos and more.

<http://ojibwemotaadidaa.weebly.com/oog-and-fdl-resources.html>

**Nenda-Gikendamang Ningo-Biboonagak** (We Seek To Learn Throughout the Year) features a collection of Ojibwe language resources for teachers, caregivers and learners who want to build a foundation of Ojibwe language learning for youth from birth to 5 yrs and Kindergarten to 8th grade. The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission provides these resources to support language acquisition and preservation for its 11 member tribes from Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

<https://glifwc-inwe.com/let-s-play-birth-5-yrs.html>

Channel 7 Oaks hosts an **Indigenous Education Indigenous Language Project** featuring a Ojibwe Bilingual K-4 Book Series Narrated by: Elder Mary Courchene and Elder Ruth Norton and Anishinaabemowin Nursery Rhymes by translated, edited and Performed by Gloria Barker and Illustrated by Arden Hill.

<https://www.channel7oaks.org/projects/books.cfm>

## FURTHER LANGUAGE RESOURCES FOR BABIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

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**Leech Lake Early Childhood Development** provides language planning kits to help you and your family get started speaking Ojibwe in your home and in our community. In addition to tips and strategies to further your language learning they have provided pronunciation guides, phrases, Family language plans, posters, labels, songs and to support your learning  
<https://www.llboearlychildhood.com/language/>

**Waking up Ojibwe Anishinaabemodaa** is a partnership between Seven Generations Education Institute, Rainy River District School Board, and SayITFirst that seeks to bring Anishinaabemowin back into the homes of Anishinaabe people by building Anishinaabemowin knowledge and fluency from preschool to postsecondary. Visit their website for Language Kits, Books, Videos, Songs, Games and other resources for Families.  
<http://www.wakingupojibwe.ca/pathways/families/>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR BEDTIME

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Roulette, Roger. Ji-Gawishmod Kieran: Bedtime For Kieran  
[https://www.sayitfirst.ca/books/bedtime?fbclid=IwAR11UTfH1rz0xYTLWYhWDIRGJK\\_OExGd18LOOMNxbPnLr8wdHgFy3mtUMJI](https://www.sayitfirst.ca/books/bedtime?fbclid=IwAR11UTfH1rz0xYTLWYhWDIRGJK_OExGd18LOOMNxbPnLr8wdHgFy3mtUMJI)

Redlake Schools Ojibwe. Nibewigamig: Bedroom  
[https://redlakeschoolsojibwe.weebly.com/bedroom.html?fbclid=IwAR0KgU3ATJrOY9\\_WcQ0\\_t8a6M6RwDyBxuxTOlsMaUyCMG16gvuBRM\\_b4Qx5c](https://redlakeschoolsojibwe.weebly.com/bedroom.html?fbclid=IwAR0KgU3ATJrOY9_WcQ0_t8a6M6RwDyBxuxTOlsMaUyCMG16gvuBRM_b4Qx5c)

Other “dos and don’ts” can be found on the Anishinaabemowin Ojibwe Language website as part of Pat Ningewance, Naasaab Izhi-anishinaabebii’igeng: A Conference to find a Common Anishinaabemowin Writing System, Conference Report at  
[http://weshki.atwebpages.com/naasaab\\_both.html](http://weshki.atwebpages.com/naasaab_both.html).

# Bedtime Activity Book

## OVERVIEW

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This bedtime book activity provides caregivers the opportunity to learn Anishinaabemowin phrases to use during their child's bedtime routine. There is also a customizable version of this bedtime book to allow caregivers to choose the phrases that relate to their child's own unique bedtime routine. Caregivers are able to include pictures of their own children demonstrating the bedtime events. The pictures serve as visual cues about the translation of the text. Additionally, included in the bedtime book is audio from a first language speaker to help caregivers pronounce the Anishinaabemowin words and phrases. Your child will love hearing you read this customized Anishinaabemowin bedtime book before they go to sleep!

## LEARNING GOALS

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- Learners will hear the pronunciation of phrases from a language speaker.
- Learners can create a custom bedtime book that you can read with your child (with or without the provided audio).
- Learners will become familiar with bedtime phrases that you can comfortably use as your child is getting ready for bed.
- Learners can use learning the Anishinaabemowin language as a bonding experience for you and your child.

## MATERIALS

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- Google Slides Presentation “Ozhiitaadaa Ji-Nibaayang (Let's Get Ready to Sleep)”
- Google Slides Presentation “My Custom Bedtime Book” (optional)
- Pictures of your family's bedtime routine (optional)

Resources available at [micec.com](https://micec.com)

View and hear bedtime phrases to learn vocabulary you can use every day during your family's bedtime routine.

### STEPS TO VIEW AND HEAR BEDTIME PHRASES:

1. Open MICEC's Google Slide Presentation Ozhiitaadaa Ji-Nibaayang: A Bedtime Book (available for download at [micec.com](http://micec.com))
2. Press **Present** in the top right corner to view the phrases and hear the audio from a first language speaker. The audio will play automatically.

Customize bedtime phrases to focus on learning phrases that are part of your family's bedtime routine in the specific order that you do them.

### STEPS TO CUSTOMIZE BEDTIME PHRASES:

1. Open MICEC's Google Slide Presentation Ozhiitaadaa Ji-Nibaayang: A Bedtime Book (available for download at [micec.com](http://micec.com)).
2. Select **File** in the top right corner and scroll down to **Make a Copy** and select the **Entire Presentation**.
3. Delete any slides that are not part of your child's bedtime routine.
4. Put the slides in order that you do the activity.
5. Press present in the top right corner to view each of the bedtime phrases and translations and to hear the pronunciation
6. Practice until you no longer need the audio!
7. Use these phrases while you go through your child's bedtime routine.

Customize our **My Custom Bedtime Book** to create a bedtime book to share with your child. In this Google slide presentation, the slides come in groups of four:

Slide 1: view the phrase to practice reading the phrase,

Slide 2: hear the phrase to practice pronunciation & guess the translation,

Slide 3: see a picture of the activity (optional) for a translation hint,

Slide 4: see the picture (optional), hear the phrase and see the phrase and its English translation.

**By customizing our bedtime book, you can make a fun and interactive learning aid for you and your child. See our example: Ariya & Logan's Bedtime Book.**

## STEPS TO MAKE A CUSTOM BEDTIME BOOK:

1. Open MICEC's Google Slide Presentation My Custom Bedtime Book (available for download at [micec.com](http://micec.com)).
2. Select **File** in the top right corner and scroll down to **Make a Copy** and select the **Entire Presentation**.
3. Delete slide sets that are not part of your child's bedtime routine.
4. Put the slide sets in the order that you do the activity.
5. Optional: insert pictures to the third and fourth slide of each set. You can use pictures of your child, pictures they drew or clip art. The pictures will serve as a visual cue about the translations of the text.
6. Optional: replace our audio with audio of you or your child saying the phrases.
7. Press present in the top right corner to view each of the bedtime phrases and translations and to hear the pronunciation
8. Practice until you no longer need the audio!
9. Use these phrases while you go through your child's bedtime routine.
10. Add this customized bedtime book to your child's bedtime routine so the last words they hear before they fall asleep are Anishinaabemowin!



**Note:** You will notice some of the phrases have an exclamation point at the end. This is to signal that it is an imperative command in the Anishinaabemowin language. To give a command to everyone and yourself, add a '-daa' sound at the end of the verb, changing the verb to a collective imperative. To give a command to one person, add an '-n' sound at the end of the verb. To give a command to two or more people, add a '-g' sound at the end of the verb. (Roulette, 2011)

## ADAPTATIONS:

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1. As you get comfortable with the phrases in the presentation, you can delete Slide 1 in each set and delete the Anishinaabemowin and English text on Slides 2 & 4. When you hear the sound of the phrase, imagine the activity and see if you are correct when you see the picture on Slide 3. Reinforce the sound with Slide 4.
2. Use the Additional Bedtime Vocabulary document to further customize your bedtime book with phrases you want to use during bedtime.

## RESOURCES USED

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Roulette, Roger. Gidinwewin: Your language (Winnipeg: Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre, 2011).

# Vocabulary List:

## Bedtime

Audio available at [micec.com](http://micec.com)



**Ozhiitaadaa ji-nibaayang!**

Let's get ready to sleep!

**Gegaa sa dibikan.**

It is getting dark/It is almost night.

**Gegaa sa dibikad.**

It is getting dark/It is almost night.

**Ozhiitaadaa!**

Let's get ready!

**Zagakinigedaa!**

Let's tidy up!

**Gojipindadaa!**

Let's have a snack (Let's have a taste)!

**Nibi minikwedaa!**

Let's have a drink of water!

**Na'atoodaa miijim!**

Let's put away the food!

**Gizii'aabide'oodaa!**

Let's brush our teeth!

**Giziibiigiidaa!**

Let's wash up!/Let's bathe!

**Biizikonayedaa!**

Let's get dressed!

This Bedtime Vocabulary sheet is from the Babies and their Caregivers Language Teaching Kit, part of Doing Immersion Differently: Teaching and Learning Anishinaabemowin through Immersion, a project of the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. If you have a suggested edit, variation or addition, please email us at [info@micec.com](mailto:info@micec.com) and let us know. We want our resources to support indigenous language immersion teaching and learning across Manitoba in all indigenous languages.

**Aabaabasodaa!**

Let's smudge!

**Asaada asemaa!**

Let's offer/place some tobacco down!

**Anami'aadaa!**

Let's pray!

**Zaaga'andaa!**

Let's go to the bathroom!

**Gibiigina'andaa!**

Let's close them (the blinds/curtains/blankets)!

**Naazikawaadaa  
gimakoonsim!**

Let's go get your bear (teddy)!

**Nagamon nagamodaa!**

Let's sing a song!

**Anamichigedaa!**

Let's read

**Aatawebijigedaa!**

Let's turn them off (the lights)!

**Gawishimodaa!**

Let's lay down (to sleep)!

**Agwaniidaa!**

Let's cover up with a blanket!

**Giizhigaate.**

The moon is out (it is moonlit).

**Daga nibaadaa!**

Let's go to sleep!

This Bedtime Vocabulary sheet is from the Babies and their Caregivers Language Teaching Kit, part of Doing Immersion Differently: Teaching and Learning Anishinaabemowin through Immersion, a project of the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. If you have a suggested edit, variation or addition, please email us at [info@micec.com](mailto:info@micec.com) and let us know. We want our resources to support indigenous language immersion teaching and learning across Manitoba in all indigenous languages.

# Vocabulary List:

## Additional Bedtime Vocabulary



**Wii-nibaad Kenny.**

Kenny is going to sleep (for one).

**Wii-nibaawaa Kenny zhigo Chuck**

Kenny and Chuck are going to sleep  
(for more than one).

**Asho-nibaajin Lila.**

Lila's Bedtime Routine.

**Asho nibaajin Ariya zhigo Logan.**

Ariya and Logan's Bedtime Routine

**Giizhigaate.**

The moon is out (it is moonlit).

**Gegaa sa dibikan.**

It is almost night/It is getting dark.

**Gegaa sa dibikad.**

It is almost night/It is getting dark.

**Ani-dibikan.**

It is getting dark.

**Ani-dibikad.**

It is getting dark.

**Dibikan.**

It is night.

**Dibikad.**

It is night.

**Ji-nibaayan zhigo.**

It is time for you to sleep.

**Aazha ji-nibaayan.**

It is time for you to sleep.

**Ji-nibaayeg zhigo.**

It is time for you all to sleep.

**Aazha ji-nibaayeg.**

It is time for you all to sleep.

**Ozhiitaadaa!**

Let's get ready!

**Ozhiitaadaa ji-nibaayang!**

Let's get ready for bed  
(Let's get ready for we all to sleep!)

**Ozhiitaadaa onji waabang!**

Let's get ready for tomorrow!

**Nawapodaa!**

Let's pack our lunches!

**Zhingadesidoodaa  
gigishkiganan!**

Let's lay out our clothes!

**Gawishimodaa!**

Let's lay down (to sleep)!

**Ozhiwanikedaa!**

Let's pack our bag!

**Zagakinigedaa!**

Let's tidy up!

**Zagakinandaa  
odaminwaaganan!**

Let's pick up the toys!

**Bekichigedaa!**

Let's clean up!

**Biinichigedaa!**

Let's clean up!

**Minikwedaa!**

Let's have a drink!

**Nibi minikwedaa!**

Let's have a drink of water!

**Wiisinidaa!**

Let's eat!

**Gojpinadaa!**

Let's have a snack (Let's have a taste)!

**Na'atoodaa miijim!**

Let's put away the food!

**Na'atoodaa wiisiniwin!**

Let's put away the food!

**Badagone'andaa miijim!**

Let's cover the food!

**Badagone'andaa wiisiniwin!**

Let's cover the food!

**Gizii'aabide'odaa!**

Let's brush our teeth!

**Giziibiigiidaa!**

Let's wash up!/Let's bathe!

**Gaasiingwedaa!**

Let's wash our faces!

**Nibewayaan biizikandaa!**

Let's put on (1 pair of) pyjamas!

**Nibewayaan biizikandaa!**

Let's put on (more than 1 pair of) pyjamas!

**Biizikonayedaa!**

Let's get dressed!

**Meshkwajikonayedaa!**

Let's change our clothes!

**Aabaabasodaa!**

Let's smudge!

**Wiingashkose.**

S/he smudges someone else.

**Asaadaa Asemaa!**

Let's offer/place some tobacco down!

**Asemaakedaa!**

Let's offer (make) tobacco!

**Biindaakoojigedaa!**Let's make an offering of tobacco  
(to place tobacco in pipe)!**Anami'aadaa!**

Let's pray!

**Zaaga'amoowigamigong  
izhaadaa!**

Let's go to the outhouse (bathroom)!

**Zaaga'andaa!**

Let's go out (to the bathroom)!

**Miiziiwigamigong izhaadaa!**

Let's go to the toilet room!

**Gibiigiga'andaa!**

Let's close them (the blinds/curtains/blankets)!

**Gibaate'igedaa!**

Let's close them (the blinds/curtains/blankets)!

**Niiaab atoodaa!**

Let's put them back (the chairs)!

**Agwane'andaa waabamonan!**

Let's cover the mirrors!

**Naazikawaadaa,  
gimakoonsim!**Let's go get her/him/them (sg),  
your (teddy) bear!

**Naazikawaadaa,  
gi-[your animal]-im!**

Let's go get her/him/them (sg),  
your (stuffed) [animal]!

**Anamichigedaa!**

Let's read!

**Nagamon nagamodaa!**

Let's sing a song!

**Nagamodaa!**

Let's sing!

**Aatawebijigedaa!**

Let's turn them off (the lights)!

**Gawishimodaa!**

Let's lay down (to sleep)!

**Agwaniidaa!**

Let's cover up with a blanket!

**Daga nibaadaa!**

Let's go to bed!

**Nibaadaa!**

Let's sleep!

This Bedtime Vocabulary sheet is from the Babies and their Caregivers Language Teaching Kit, part of Doing Immersion Differently: Teaching and Learning Anishinaabemowin through Immersion, a project of the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. If you have a suggested edit, variation or addition, please email us at [info@micec.com](mailto:info@micec.com) and let us know. We want our resources to support indigenous language immersion teaching and learning across Manitoba in all indigenous languages.

## USEFUL WORDS FOR BEDTIME

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**Bizaan!** You be quiet!

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**Bizaag!** You all be quiet!

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**Agwaniin!** You cover up with blankets!

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**Agwaniig!** You all cover up with blankets!

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**Gawishimon!** You get settled!

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**Gawishimog!** You all get settled!

---

**Bangitoon!** You be quiet!

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**Bangitoog!** You all be quiet!

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**Mino-nibaan!** Sleep well/good night!

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**Mino-nibaag!** Sleep well/good night you all!

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**Gizaagi'in.** I love you.

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**Gizaagi'ininim.** I love you all.

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**Gizaagi'igoo.** We love you.

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**Gizaagi'igoom.** We love you all.

**Gizhawenamin.** I cherish you.

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**Gizhawenaminim.** I cherish you all.

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**Gizhawenaminigoo.** We cherish you.

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**Gizhawenaminigoom.** We cherish you all.

This Bedtime Vocabulary sheet is from the Babies and their Caregivers Language Teaching Kit, part of Doing Immersion Differently: Teaching and Learning Anishinaabemowin through Immersion, a project of the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. If you have a suggested edit, variation or addition, please email us at [info@micec.com](mailto:info@micec.com) and let us know. We want our resources to support indigenous language immersion teaching and learning across Manitoba in all indigenous languages.

## BEDTIME DO'S & DONT'S

- Zaaga'an jibwaa nibaayan.** Go to the bathroom before you go to sleep.
- Waabang naagadawendan.** Think of tomorrow (what you are going to do).
- Gego gegoo gichi-minikweken jibwaa nibaayan.** Don't have lots to drink (anything) before you go to sleep.
- Gego gichi-wiisiniken jibwaa nibaayan.** Don't have lots to eat before you go to sleep.
- Gego zegaabishiniken jibwaa nibaayan.** Don't watch anything scary before you go to sleep.
- Gego zegi'idisiikeg jibwaa nibaayeg.** Don't scare each other before you guys go to sleep.
- Gego gwiishkodangen waawaateg, da-naazhiwag jibayag gemaa giga-naawazwaanigoog!** Don't whistle at the northern lights, the ghosts will come down or they'll chase you!
- Gego aadizookeken niibing, omagakii giga-zhegobani'ig!** Don't tell legends during the summer, a frog will crawl into bed with you!
- Gego ishkode odaminwaageken, giga-zhigingwaam!** Don't play with fire, you'll pee your bed!

This Bedtime Vocabulary sheet is from the Babies and their Caregivers Language Teaching Kit, part of Doing Immersion Differently: Teaching and Learning Anishinaabemowin through Immersion, a project of the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. If you have a suggested edit, variation or addition, please email us at [info@micec.com](mailto:info@micec.com) and let us know. We want our resources to support indigenous language immersion teaching and learning across Manitoba in all indigenous languages.