Indian Languages Program:
Communication-Based Instruction (CBI)

1) The lesson involves communication between people - no matter how simple.

2) Teaching involves all learning modalities (visual, auditory, kinesthetic).

3) Information is modeled, and instructional tools are used, such as pictures, realia, and play-acting, in order to make the lesson comprehensible.

4) The lesson is taught in the target language.

5) The lesson keeps a function (purpose) of the language in mind.

6) Lesson topics are relevant to students.

7) A “CBI” lesson begins with students’ prior knowledge through cognates or borrowed words (if any), and through review.

8) Instruction is always “plus one” - constantly extending students to higher levels.

9) Questions called “Comprehension Checks” are used to assess for understanding.

10) Correction of student’s language production are modeled in a non-threatening way.

11) The language’s culture is incorporated into the instruction.

12) The teacher shows cultural sensitivity towards the student’s own culture.

13) Instruction follows the Five Step Lesson Plan.

14) The lesson is fun to motivate learning.