Indian Languages Program:
Elements of Communication-Based Instruction (CBI)

Developed by Sarah Supahan, 1994 and Based on the California Language Framework

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

2) Instruction is designed in the way in which all people acquire language (receptive skills before production practice i.e.: listening before talking)

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

4) Information is modeled, and instructional tools are used, such as pictures, realia (objects and material from everyday life), and play-acting, to make the lesson comprehensible.

5) The lesson is taught in the target language.

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

7) Lesson topics are relevant to students.

8) A "CBI" lesson begins with students' prior knowledge through cognates or borrowed words (if any), and through review.

9) Instruction is always "plus one" - constantly challenging students with newer materials and slightly higher levels of language.

10) Questions called "Comprehension Checks" are used to assess for understanding.

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

12) The language's culture is incorporated into the instruction.

13) The teacher shows cultural sensitivity towards the student's own culture.

14) Instruction follows the Five Step Lesson Plan.

15) The lesson is fun to motivate learning.