



Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag  
**Child & Family Services**

# Tikinagan



The tikinagan was used to carry our young ones from a very early age. During harvesting or gatherings, babies would be leaned against a tree in their tikinagan to observe what was taking place around them. Items hung from the handle of the tikinagan to help in their development which represented who they were, why they were here and where they were going. The father traditionally constructed these cradles with love and care. Cedar was used for the back where the baby would rest and black ash for the feet and handles because they were easy to bend. Tanned deer skin was used to hold baby and fashioned with floral designs using quills of the porcupine that represented their own Creation story.

## Shakers/Rattles



Shakers are a part of our Creation Story which can be a part of our bundle, used during gatherings and ceremonies. The sound of the shaker reminds us of one of the first sounds we hear in our mother's womb, replicating the sound of blood flow. This is why it's so calming to our little ones.



## Moss Bags

Newborn babies are placed in a Moss bag right away, in the swaddled position, to sleep sound without startling or waking. Swaddling feels similar to being in the their mother's womb. All of the baby's senses are heightened when swaddled, they observe by seeing, smelling, and hearing all that is around them. The moss bag can be placed within the tikinagan or used on its own.

## Baby Moccasins



Baby moccasins are one of our original and first footwear. Babies would wear these made of leather and/or fur to keep our little ones connected to Mother Earth. The first pair may be given at birth or during their walking out ceremony.