



# Speaking Michif Resources:

[Lessons, games and activities to accompany the videos]

Created by the Louis Riel Institute  
Translations by Norman Fleury



**LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE**  
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## How to use **SPEAKING MICHIF** at home and in the classroom:

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Speaking Michif are instructional videos developed by the Louis Riel Institute to assist in teaching families the Michif language. The lessons are at a beginner level, on the theme of everyday family life. The lessons can be easily practiced at home since they involve everyday activities and conversations. The videos can also be used in a language classroom.

The lessons and games on the Speaking Michif instructional VIDEOS are at a beginner level, on the theme of everyday family life.

The lessons can be easily practiced at home since they involve everyday activities and conversations.

The videos features Norman Fleury as the speaker and teacher. The Michif used in the videos is called Michif-Cree. It is the Michif Norman and his parents and grandparents spoke at home and in the community.

There are three modules on the videos, as well as an Introduction, Hello Song, and a Closing. Use each module as a starter to your lessons. You can follow along and learn the vocabulary, repeating after the teacher to get the proper pronunciation.

After watching a lesson, use the activities and games included in this package to practice. The templates for the flash cards, the board game and the bingo game may be copied and used for practice in class or at home. We suggest laminating them or copying them onto heavy paper.

Enjoy! Mar-sii.

# A Message from Norman Fleury

**Taan-shi kii-ya-wow.**

Hello, how are you?

**Norman Fleury di-shi-ni-ka-shoon.**

My name is Norman Fleury.

**Aen Michif niyapi aan Michif ni pii-kish-kwaan.**

I am Michif and speak Michif.

**Li Michif si ma laang.**

My Language is Michif.

**Gii kish-kayh-tayn li Michif oush-chi Nooh -koom, Moushoum, pi ma faamii.**

I learnt Michif from my Grandma and Grandpa.

**Nutr laang li Michif ka-ta-waa-shi-shinn.**

Our Michif language is beautiful.

**Ooma li videos oush-chi ka-kish-kayh-tayn-na-wow chi pii-kish-kway-yayk li**

**Michif kii-ki-wahk-y-wow avik vutr famii.**

From this videos you will learn to speak Michif in your home with your family.

**Mar-sii**

Thank you

# Games and Resources to Make Ahead of Time:

## **Make your own Flash Card Pack.**

- Copy and cut the cards included in the resource package. Add a heavy backing and then laminate or cover with packing tape to make them last.
- Choose cards from the Flash Card Pack to use in the different games, i.e., Musical Chairs and Taan-shi Koo-koum.
- Start with simple commands and phrases, adding more cards as you get comfortable with them.

## **Make your own Household Bingo**

- Make two copies of the original bingo set in your package.
- Use one to cut up into calling cards and laminate.
- Use the other set as the bingo cards. Laminate.

## **Make your own game board for Taan-shi Koo-koum**

- Laminate the 4 parts of the game board and attach with packing tape.
- Make a set of game cards using actions required to get ready to go to Koo-koums (i.e., 'get dressed')
- Add a set of dice and some counters and you are ready to play the game.
- Once every player makes it to Koo-koums, provide a treat and eat together, practicing some of the words and phrases learned.

# Taan-shi Kiiya – Hello Song

Listen to the song Taan-shi Kiiya together. Sing along with Norman.

Singing is a great way to learn a language and to become comfortable with the sounds of a language. Singing also encourages repetition, and repetition is an integral step to learning.

## Practice Saying Hello:

“Taan-shi” = Hello

Practice asking each other:

“Taan-shi kiiya?” = Hello, how are you?

Answer, “Ni-ma-naan-dow” = I am fine.

To say hello to two or more people together, say, “Taan-shi kiiya-wow”.

Introduce Yourself :

“Taan-shi, Katherine niiya.” = Hello, I am Katherine.

Or “Taan-shi. Katherine di-shi-ni-ka-shoon.” = Hello, my name is Katherine.

## Taan-shi kiiya

Taan-shi, Taan-shi kiiya,  
Taan-shi, Taan-shi kiiya,  
Taan-shi, Taan-shi kiiya,  
Taan-shi kiiya, annosh?

Hello, how are you,  
Hello, how are you,  
Hello, how are you,  
How are you today?

# Michif Song Sheet:

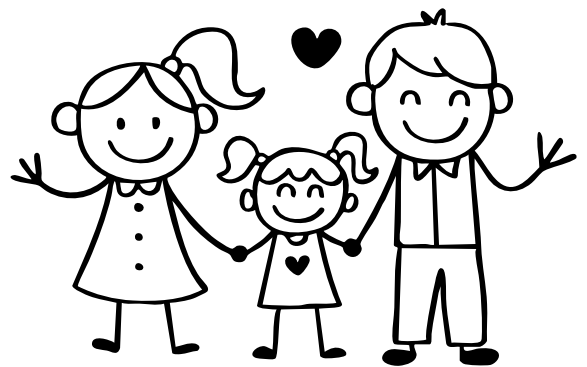
## Taan-shi

By Verna Demontigny

Sung to: Skip to my Lou My Darling

Taan-shi, taan-shi kiiya?  
Taan-shi, taan-shi kiiya?  
Taan-shi, taan-shi kiiya?  
Taan-shi kiiya annosh?

Hello, how are you?  
Hello, how are you?  
Hello, how are you?  
How are you today?

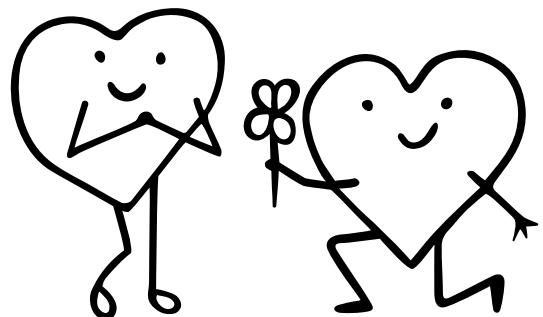


## Kiish-pin Ki-sha-ki-hin (If you love me)

Sung to the tune of the Heel Toe Polka

Kiish-pin Ki-sha-ki-hin  
She-mak o-chay-min  
Kiish-pin ki-pa-kwa-shin  
She-mak ka-na-ka shin.

(If you love me  
Kiss me now  
If you don't  
Leave me now)



# Michif Song Sheet:

## Oh it's Time to say Taan-shi to Our Friends

Sung to: If You're Happy and Know it

Oh it's time to say taan-shi to our friends

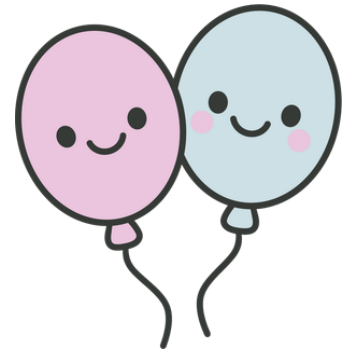
Oh it's time to say taan-shi to our friends

h it's time to say taan-shi

Puh-ti-kway, api (come in,sit down)

Oh it's time to say taan-shi to our friends.

TAAN-SHI



# MODULE 1

## Instructions for the Facilitator:

The lessons for Module are explained below. Watch each lesson in the order that follows and then try the activities or games with your class or family.

### 1. **Aash-tum! Nakii! Commands for Playing Games**

Norman will take you through basic commands such as sit, stand, come here and stop. You can find the commands in your flash card pack and in the chart on the following page. Add more cards each time you play and see if everyone can do what they are told in Michif!

Next Norman plays **Ashtum! Na-kii! (Come and Stop!)** with the kids. It is played the same way as Red Light-Green Light is played. Try to touch the caller before he turns!

### 2. **Api Sil-vou-play, Commands for the Classroom**

Norman teaches us more commands that are useful for the classroom, such as 'sit down please' and 'listen quietly'. Use them every day in the classroom or at home to get used to the sound of the Michif words. (See the chart on the next page)

# MODULE 1

## 3. Let's Play Musical Chairs

Musical Chairs is a fun game for children, and an active way to learn and practice recognizing some action words. Norman starts the game by reviewing 4 action words: pi-moh-tay (walk), pim-bah-ta (run), kwaash-kwa-ti (jump), and la jig nii-mi (dance the jig). Add more words as you get comfortable with these.

Play some fiddle music and start. Use Apik! (sit down) Or na-kiik! (stop) when the music stops. Use 'ni-pa-wii' (stand up) and 'mii-na' (again) when starting the music again.

## 4. Reading Action Flashcards

Norman chooses a few familiar actions from Wa-nish-ka and quizzes us on the Michif. Do the actions and repeat along with the children in the [video](#).

## 5. Let's Play a Board Game - Taan-shi Koo-koum

Your resource package has the game board for the game Taan-shi Koo-koum in 4 pieces. Tape it together and cover with plastic. The game cards can be made by choosing flash cards with actions such as 'get dressed' 'eat breakfast' etc. The back of the cards are included also, with the name of the game printed on them.

# MODULE 1

## **Instructions:**

Roll the die, and move the spaces.

Count in Michif; 1,2,3,4,5,6: "Hen, deu, trwaa, kaatr, saenk, sis". Pick a card, read it, and do the action.

When you all reach Koo-koum's house, you will all have tea and bannock together.

## **Vocabulary** for playing a board game:

My turn = Niiya aykwaa

Shake the dice = Itay-way-pi-nik lii dii Your turn = Kiiya aykwaa

1,2,3,4,5,6 = Hen, deu, trwaa, kaatr, saenk, sis

## **6. Flash Cards - Apray Niiya Itwayk (repeat after me)**

Norman goes through the entire flash card pack under the following headings:

- Action words
- Basic Commands
- Stern Commands
- Good Manners
- Personal Care

# MODULE 1

You may wish to study just one section at a time and then have students practice on their own or with a partner. Remember, repetition is important. Listen to Norman, and play many games to get comfortable with the language.

## **7. Tea With Koo-koum (a skit)**

Ethan, Katherine, and Brandon made up a skit about having tea with Koo-koum. Your group or family can make up their own skit and tape it to watch later. It can be about anything they want, using the games for ideas and vocabulary.

# MODULE 1

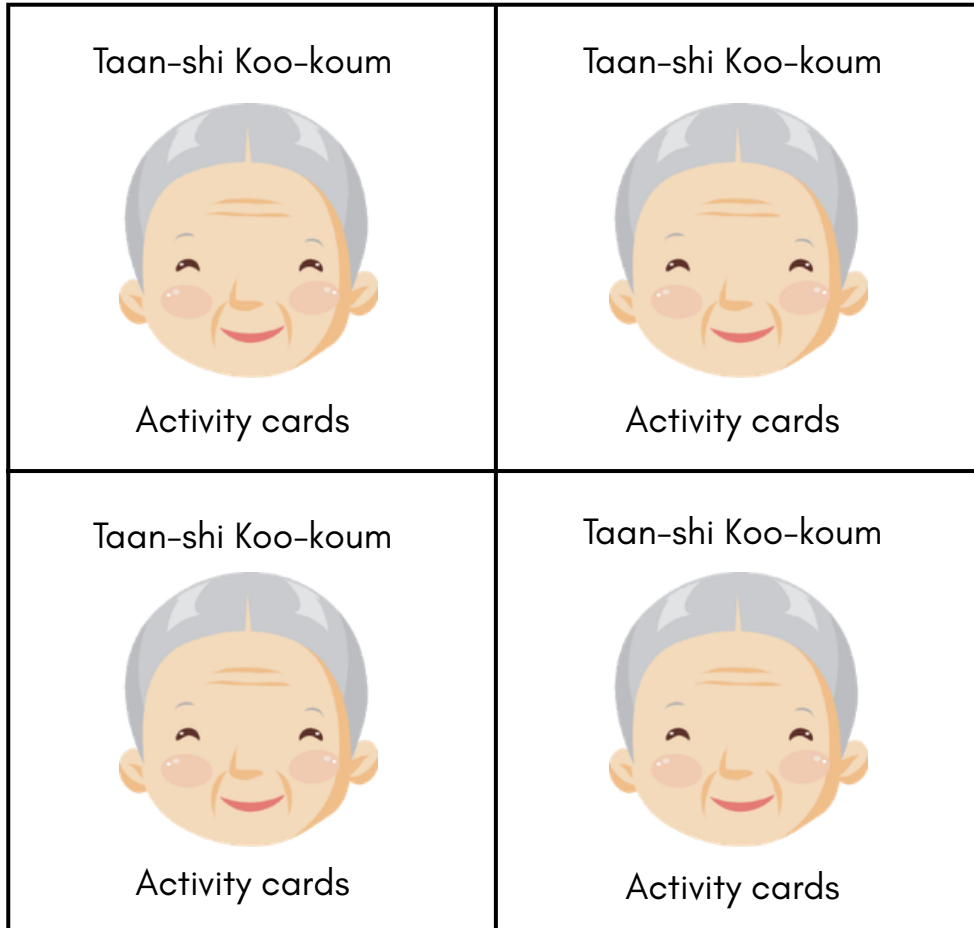
<b>Commands</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Stop	naa-kii	Naa-kiik
Go	Nii-yaan	Nii-yaak
Sit down	Api	Apik
Sit quiet	Kiyaam api	Kiyaam apik
Listen	Naa-touh-ta	Naa-touh-ta-mouhk
Look (at this)	Ka-na-wa-paah-ta	Ki-na-wa-pah-ta-mouhk
Come here	Aash-tum oota	Aash-tum-mik
Stand up	Nii-pa-wi	Nii-pa-wik
Do it again	Kiit-waam	Kii-twaam
Your turn	Kiia-aykwaa	Kiia-wow-akwaa

# MODULE 1

## Some Basic Words:

Yes	Wii
No	No
Please	Sil-vou-play
Thank You	Mar-sii
I	Niiya
You	Kiiya

# MODULE 1








**Copy these cards with actions on the flip side in Michif only. Choose from the flash cards provided in your package.**

# MODULE 1: COMMAND CHART








Wa-nish-ka	Wa-nish-ka	
Shii-pii	Stretch	
Ka-shii-kway	Wash your face	
Miit-sho	Eat	
Wa-way-yii	Get dressed	
Doo-ma-ta-way	Go play	
Pa-ka-shi-moo	have a bath	
Amish-chi-kay	Read	
Li broshii tii daan	Brush your teeth	
Daan toon lii	Into bed	

# MODULE 1

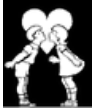









## Other everyday commands:

Aashtum oota	Come here	
Ka-kway-ya-hou	Hurry up	
Vaa-taan	Go away	
Poo-yoo	Stop it	
Piih-ti-kway	Come in	
Kii-yaam-a-ya	Be quiet	
A-pi	Sit down	
Nii-pa-wi	Stand up	
Shii-ka-ha tii zhveu	Comb your hair	
Taah-kou-pi-ta tii sou-yii	Tie your shoes	


# MODULE 1

Wii-chi-hinn	Help me	
Si-vou-play	Please	
Maar-sii	Thank you	
Ship-way'h-tay-taak	Let's go	
Kaa-ya taa-shiih-kaa	Don't touch	
Na-touh-ta	Listen	
Itaa-pi	Look	
Mi-yoo-too-ta	Be good	
La vi-sel ki-shii-pay-ki-na	Wash the dishes	
Toon lii oush-ta	Make your bed	

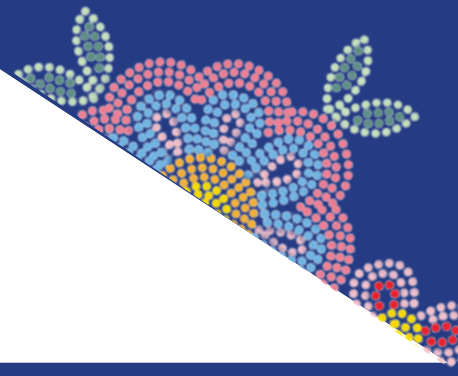
# MODULE 1

Ou-chaem-minn	Kiss me!	
Bienvenue	Welcome	
Nipaa	Sleep	
Ka-wi-shi-mo	Go to bed	
Ki-shii-pay-ki-na tii maen	Wash your hands	
Bonn ou-vraazh	Good job	
Bonn luck	Good luck	
Na-kii!	Stop	
Nii-yaan	Go	
Pi-moh-tay	Walk	

# MODULE 1

Pim-bah-ta	Run	
Kwaash-kwa-ti	Jump	
Kak-way-ahoo	Hurry up	
Plus vite or Ki-shii-pa-yi	Faster	
Na-wut pa-pay- chii or Plus slow	Slow down	
Nii-mi	Dance	
La jig nii-mi	Dance the jig	
Mii-na	Again	

## MODULE 2:



### Instructions for the Facilitator:

#### 1. Let's Sing, La Pchit Fii

The song is sung to the tune of Frere Jacques. It is about a little girl helping with the house work.

This is a good song for beginners as it repeats many words and phrases to help you to learn the pronunciation.

#### 2. Let's Sing, Lii Pchi Gaar-soon

This song will help you learn about plural and singular as well as many playtime activities.

#### 3. Faamii – Let's Learn About Family

You will find a card representing each family member in the Bingo card templates. Use them to play the following game, Awaana (Who is This?). Hold up cards showing each family member and say "Awaana?" Have the group name them. Try it again, but cover the text.

## MODULE 2:

### 4. Let's Play Household Bingo

Norman calls Bingo with Brandon, Ethan and Katherine. Use the template in the resource package to make your own Bingo game. Your group can each have a Bingo card and play along.

Notice that most of the household items sound more like French than Cree. This is because in Michif, most of the nouns are French (or sometimes English) and the verbs are Cree. The grammar is also more related to Cree.

### 5. More Bingo Words

Norman reads ALL the Bingo cards in this section. You can play as he reads, and just pause the game if someone gets Bingo.

This is also great for practicing pronunciation and learning new vocabulary. Try using some of these words in your next skit or role play.

### 6. Let's Sing and Dance - "Kish-pin Ki-sha-ki-hin"

Do you know how to do the Heel Toe? Follow along with the kids on the videos and learn the Heel Toe and sing a silly song about love! The words for Kish-pin are on the song sheet on page 6.

## MODULE 2

### 7. Let's Sing and Dance - "Kish-pin Ki-sha-ki-hin"

Do you know how to do the Heel Toe? Follow along with the kids on the videos and learn the Heel Toe and sing a silly song about love! The words for Kish-pin are on the song sheet on page 8.

#### **Extra Lesson Idea: Make sentences**

Divide bingo and flashcards into 3 pots as follows:

- People or pets
- Action words (verbs)
- Things (nouns)

Each person picks out 1 card from each container.

Students will put them into a sentence: (even if it is a silly one) ie. "La pchit fii a-toosh-kew avik soon vacuum."

# MODULE 3

## Instructions for the Facilitator:

### 1. Read Kay-kway Oo-shi-ta-yenn Anoosh? What are You Doing Today?

Listen to Norman read the book.

### 2. Let's Play Charades

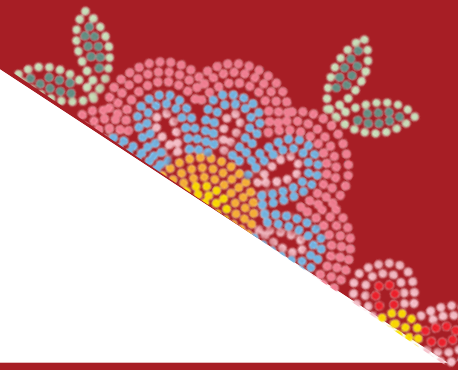
Instructions:

- Charades is a good game to play in a group. Divide the group into 2 teams if you have enough people. Otherwise each person can play as an individual.
- One person on the team pulls one card and has to act it out for their team. You may use a timer and give them a minute to guess. They have to say the entire sentence.
- Start with 'I am' sentences. i.e., I am reading. I am building.
- Then play a second round with 'we are' sentences. Have them work in pairs to act these sentences out.

### 3. Read Pa-piw/ Laughing

In this lesson Norman reads the book , Pa-piw with the kids. This book teaches us how to start sentences with not only 'I am', but also, 'he or she is' (that person is) and we are.

## MODULE 3



**Practice the following verbs in sentences: play, laugh, read, dance, sleep**

Verb	I am	He or she is	We are	They are	You are
playing	Ni ma-ta-waan	Ni ma-ta-wew	Ni ma-ta-waa- naan	Ma-ta-way- wuk	Ki ma-ta- waan
laughing	Ni paah-pin	Paah-piw	Ni paah-pi- naan	Paah-pi- wuk	Ki paah -pin
reading	Ni amish-chi- kaan	Amish-chi- kew	Ni amish-chi-ka- naan	Amish-chi- kay-wuk	Ki -amish- chi-kaan
dancing	Ni nii-min	Nii-miw	Ni nii-mi- naan	Nii-mi-wuk	Ki nii-min
sleeping	Ni ni-paan	Ni-pow	Ni ni-pa- naan	i-pa-wuk	Ki ni-paan

## MODULE 3

### 4. Write a skit

Write a simple script about going to a friend's house to visit. What activities would you do at your friends? What is the family busy doing? Include your new vocabulary. Make a short video of your skit.

Nutr laang li Michif ka-ta-waa-shi-shinn. Ooma li videos oush-chi ka-kish-kayh-tayn-na-wow chi pii-kish-kway-yayk li Michif kii-ki-wahk-y-wow avik vutr famii.

Mar-sii,  
Norman Fleury

# APENDIX



## **Flash cards:**

- Copy, fold over to make 2 sided, cut, and laminate

## **Household Bingo sheets:**

- Copy 1 set to use as bingo cards - laminate
- Copy another set to cut up into calling cards - laminate

## **Board design for Taan-shi Koo-koum game:**

- Copy 4 sheets, and laminate into one large board game.



**Wa-nish-ka**



**Wake up**



**Shii-pii**



**Stretch**



**Ka-shii-kway**



**Wash your face**





**Miit-sho**



**Eat**



**Wa-way-yii**



**Get dressed**



**Doo-ma-ta-way**



**Go play**





**Miit-sho**



**Eat**



**Wa-way-yii**



**Get dressed**

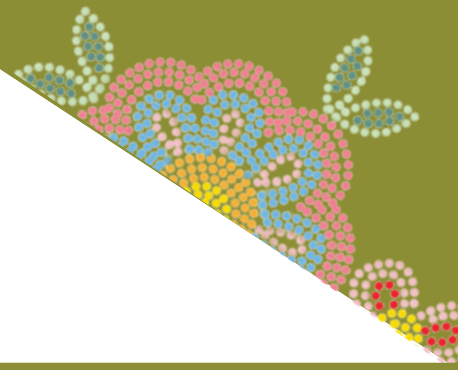


**Doo-ma-ta-way**



**Go play**





**Daan toon lii**



**Into bed**



**ka-kway-ya-hou**



**Hurry up**

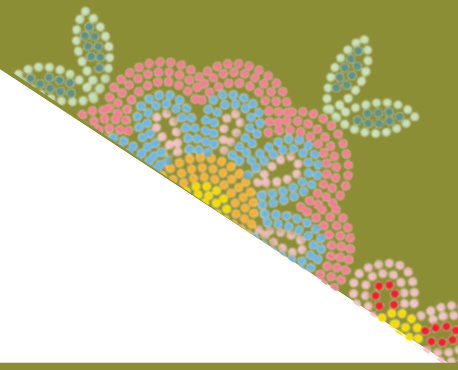


**Aashtum oota**



**Come here**





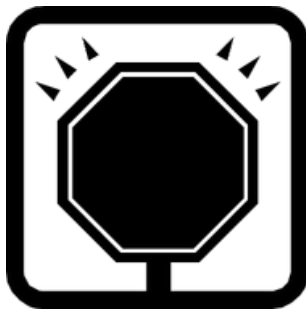
**Vaa-taan**



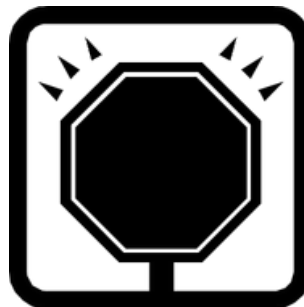
**Go away**



**Poo-yoo**



**Stop it**

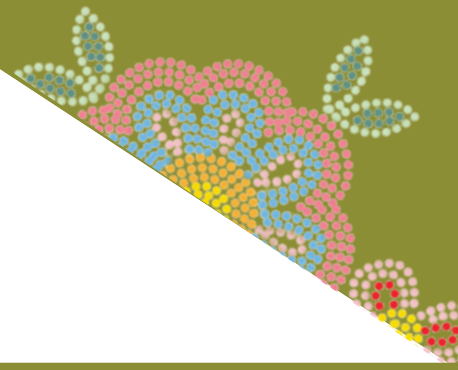








**Piih-ti-kway**



**Come in**





<p><b>Kii-yaam-a-ya</b></p> 	<p><b>Be quiet</b></p> 
<p><b>Api</b></p> 	<p><b>Sit down</b></p> 
<p><b>Nii-pa-wi</b></p> 	<p><b>Stand up</b></p> 



**Shii-ka-ha tii zhveu**



**Comb your hair**



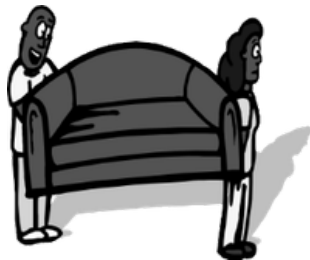
**Taah-kou-pi-ta  
tii sou-yii**



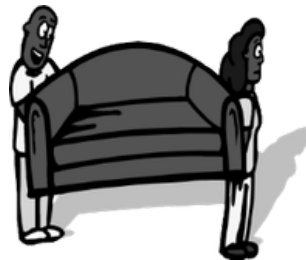
**Tie your shoes**



**Wii-chi-hinn**



**Help me**





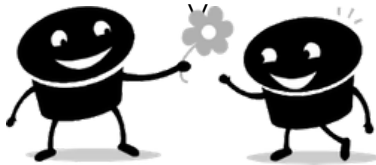
**Shii-ka-ha tii zhveu**



**Please**



**Maar-sii**



**Thank you**



**Ship-way'h-tay-  
taak**



**Let's go**





**Kaa-ya  
taa-shiih-kaa**



**Don't touch**



**Na-touh-ta**



**Listen**



**Itaa-pi**



**Look**





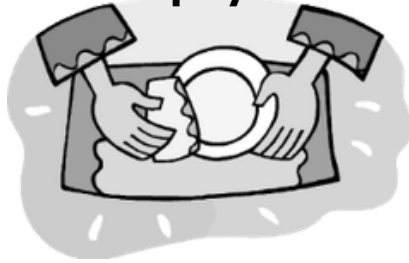
**Mi-yoo-too-ta**



**Be good**



**La vi-sel  
ki-shii-pay-ki-na**



**Wash the dishes**



**Toon lii oush-ta**

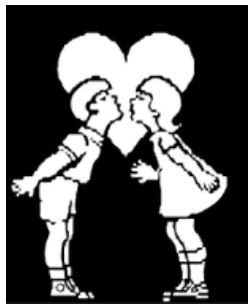


**Make your bed**

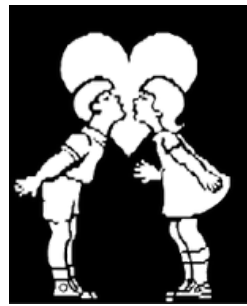




**Ou-chaem-minn**



**Kiss me**



**Bienvenue**



**Welcome**



**Nipaa**



**Sleep**





**Ka-wi-shi-mo**



**Go to bed**



**Ki-shii-pay-ki-na  
tii maen**



**Wash your hands**

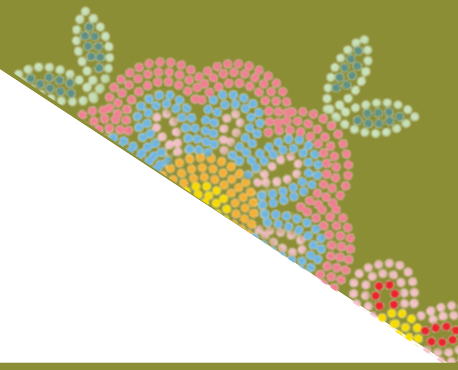






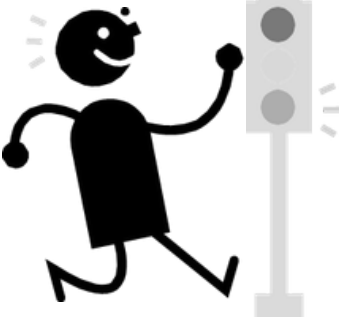
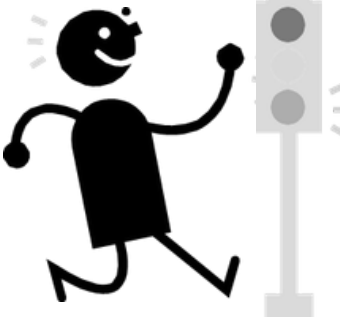
**Bonn ou-vraazh**

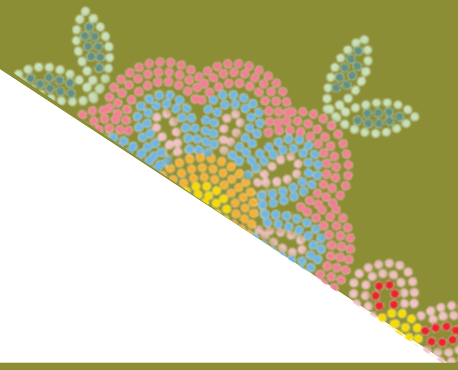


**Good job**





<p><b>Bonn luck</b></p> 	<p><b>Good luck</b></p> 
<p><b>Na-kii!</b></p> 	<p><b>Stop!</b></p> 
<p><b>Nii-yaa</b></p> 	<p><b>Go</b></p> 



**Pi-moh-tay**



**Walk**



**Pim-bah-ta**



**Run**

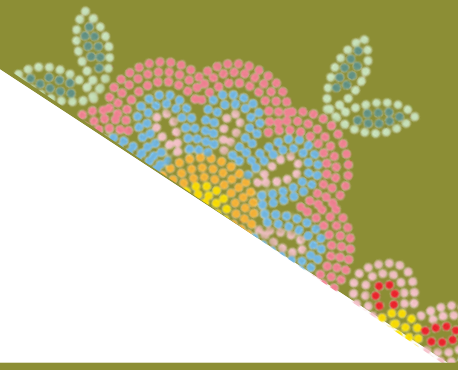








**Kwaash-kwa-ti**

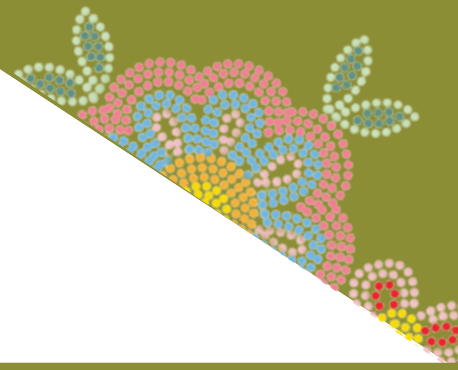


**Jump**





<p><b>Kak-way-ahoo</b></p> 	<p><b>Walk</b></p> 
<p><b>Plus vite or Ki-shii-pa-yi</b></p> 	<p><b>Run</b></p> 
<p><b>Na-wut pa-pay-chii or Plus slow</b></p> 	<p><b>Slow down</b></p> 



<p><b>Nii-mi</b></p> 	<p><b>Dance</b></p> 
<p><b>La jig nii-mi</b></p> 	<p><b>Dance the jig</b></p> 
<p><b>Mii-na</b></p> 	<p><b>Again</b></p> 



<p><b>Kiish-tay-po</b></p> 	<p><b>Miit-sho</b></p> 	<p><b>Mi-nih-kwew</b></p> 
<p><b>La vi-sel</b></p> 	<p><b>Li soo-pii</b></p> 	<p><b>Li paen</b></p> 
<p><b>Li di-zhaa-nii</b></p> 	<p><b>Li ji-nii</b></p> 	<p><b>Li pwaa-soon</b></p> 



<p><b>Kiish-tay-po</b></p> 	<p><b>Miit-sho</b></p> 	<p><b>Mi-nih-kwew</b></p> 
<p><b>La vi-sel</b></p> 	<p><b>Li soo-pii</b></p> 	<p><b>Li paen</b></p> 
<p><b>Li di-zhaa-nii</b></p> 	<p><b>Li ji-nii</b></p> 	<p><b>Li pwaa-soon</b></p> 



<p><b>La maen-zoon</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen bike</b></p> 	<p><b>Lii zhou-zhou</b></p> 
<p><b>Aen bar-soo</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen lii</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen aa-ta-moo-bil</b></p> 
<p><b>Li sink</b></p> 	<p><b>La pwel</b></p> 	<p><b>Li shoofa</b></p> 



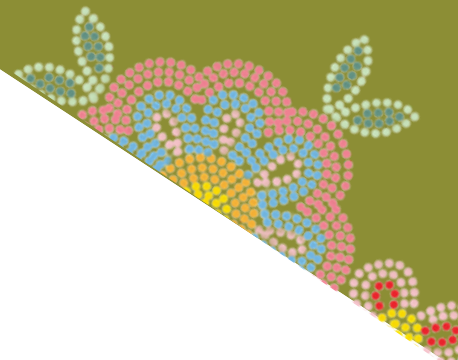
<p><b>Li fridge</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen pwel a chwii-zinn</b></p> 	<p><b>Lii boolet</b></p> 
<p><b>La tab</b></p> 	<p><b>La shayzh</b></p> 	<p><b>La chwii-zinn</b></p> 
<p><b>Lii krep</b></p> 	<p><b>La galet</b></p> 	<p><b>La vyaand</b></p> 



<p><b>La ra-ba-boo</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen rou-lou'd paat</b></p> 	<p><b>Lii frwii</b></p> 
<p><b>Lii zhaar-ji-naazh</b></p> 	<p><b>Dilet</b></p> 	<p><b>Lii bis-kwii</b></p> 
<p><b>Enn tass di coffee</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen zaaff</b></p> 	<p><b>Li shaa-sii</b></p> 







<p><b>Li raa-too</b></p> 	<p><b>La besh</b></p> 	<p><b>La shmiizh</b></p> 
<p><b>Enn kilot</b></p> 	<p><b>Lii bot-chinn</b></p> 	<p><b>Lii soo-yii</b></p> 
<p><b>Enn rob</b></p> 	<p><b>Enn ka-taen</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen waa-goon</b></p> 



<p><b>Li ra-goo</b></p> 	<p><b>Li shaa</b></p> 	<p><b>Li shyaen</b></p> 
<p><b>Aen payng</b></p> 	<p><b>Enn brush</b></p> 	<p><b>Li zhaar-daen</b></p> 
<p><b>Enn koovaart</b></p> 	<p><b>Lii fleur</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen aarbr</b></p> 



<p><b>Moon noonk</b></p> 	<p><b>Pwaa-soon dorrii</b></p> 	<p><b>La fii</b></p> 
<p><b>Li gaar-soon</b></p> 	<p><b>Mooshoom</b></p> 	<p><b>Ma taant</b></p> 
<p><b>Lyayv</b></p> 	<p><b>Faamii</b></p> 	<p><b>Paa-paa</b></p> 



<p><b>La port</b></p> 	<p><b>La klii</b></p> 	<p><b>Li koutoo</b></p> 
<p><b>Aen naar-lozh</b></p> 	<p><b>Enn fourshett</b></p> 	<p><b>Enn chouyayr</b></p> 
<p><b>Vyayloon</b></p> 	<p><b>Pchi biibii</b></p> 	<p><b>Aen liivr</b></p> 

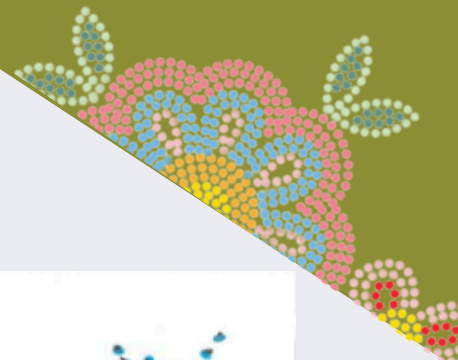
# *Taan-shi Koo-koum!*

*Board Game*

*Created by Louis Riel Institute  
for use with Speaking Michif*

*Art by: Andrea Rose*





July 29, 2011 sARose





**Created by the Louis Riel Institute - Translations by Norman Fleury**





Education



Culture



History



Heritage

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