

Cultural Emergence | The Power of Storytelling

Never Alone: PARENT IMPACT GUIDE

13+ | 1-3 Hours

“Gather close and I will tell you an unipkaaġ, a story that has been passed to me from generations past. I learned this tale from Nasruk many years ago. He told me that there is great wisdom in listening for those who are willing to bear. Remember, when you are part of the Iñupiat people, you are never alone.”

--Never Alone



ABOUT Never Alone

Never Alone is a puzzle-platform game that leverages traditional Alaska Native stories along with the culture of the Iñupiaq community. In *Never Alone*, players take on the roles of Nuna, a young Iñupiaq girl and her companion, an Arctic fox, as they search for the source of an endless blizzard that is imperiling her village. The game features striking visuals and emphasizes the themes of interdependence, survival and inter-generational exchange and includes additional indigenous stories and cultural content that is ‘unlocked’ through gameplay.

For game information, visit: <http://neveralonegame.com/>

THEME FOR THIS GUIDE: The Power of Storytelling

For as long as humans have had the ability to communicate we have told stories passed from generation to generation in the traditions of oral stories, rituals and plays. Stories that transcend cultures and context, are those that explore universal human themes, in engaging and entertaining formats. These stories guide generations navigating the stages of life from birth to death. As humans evolve, so do our mediums for storytelling. Oral stories, rituals and plays continue, but new communication platforms also emerged such as books, comics, radio, movies and television. Despite the change in delivery, stories that remain across generations combine deeply relevant themes with the craft of great storytelling to effectively leverage the unique affordances of a chosen medium.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE	Read through the <i>Never Alone</i> Player Impact Guide and invite your child play the game together with the guide. The Game Basics section provides prompts for the first few chapters of the game. After playing for a bit take a break and use the Theme Insights and World Connections sections for discussion about the game and the Impact Guide theme. This Parent Impact Guide also extends the Player Impact Guide experience as it relates to family play.
DISCUSS THE GAME	<p>... <i>the gameplay</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the challenges in Nuna’s journey in <i>Never Alone</i>? [+1] • How does Nuna overcome these challenges? [+2] • How are her challenges and triumphs presented in game play? [+3] <p>... <i>the game’s impact</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are Nuna and Fox interdependent? [+1] • How is the connection between Nuna and Fox similar to relationships with people in our lives? [+2] • How do stories help us understand the meanings of our relationships and connections? [+3]
INTERACT WITH THE GAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child pick two game achievements and describe how they were earned and what they mean. [+1] • Have your child setup two challenges, and watch as they complete them. [+2] • Play the game yourself, and complete the "Game Basics" section of the player Impact Guide. [+2] • Solve one challenge that your child sets up for you to complete with their help. [+2]
SHARE THE GAME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post a positive reflection on the CGI Facebook page: http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact [+2] • Engage in conversations with other parents about your experience using the guide and playing the game. [+2] • Host a “Game Slam” event, using these and other challenge questions you create. [+3]

Family Challenge: Design a game idea similar to *Never Alone* using a story from your own culture as the basis for the game. Create a short video describing your game idea, post it to YouTube, and share the link on the Center for Games & Impact Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/gamesandimpact>.