

Some “Useful” (☺) Words in Southern Pomo

The following words can be quite useful in an otherwise English-speaking home. Teach these to your children, and they can be used to avoid embarrassment by not saying the English equivalent and to avoid offending people. My wife and I use most of these words (some more than others) with our four children. If you would like to hear these words pronounced, please visit the Dry Creek Rancheria’s website and pick “Useful” Words from within the student section of the language tab (here’s the direct link: <http://www.drycreekrancheria.com/doc.asp?id=856>)

POTTY WORDS

ʔahp^ha	‘excrement, poop’	si:li	‘buttocks’ (cheeks only—not inside)
ʔehp^heʔ	‘gas, fart’	mehšew	‘(it) smells bad’
ʔis:a	‘penis’	ʔahp^hahča	‘outhouse; bathroom’ (literally ‘poop-house’)

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

k^haʔ:ičaw (or k^hač:aw)	‘bad’	k^haʔ:iča:čo	‘you bad one!’
koʔdi	‘good’	ʔ^hečaw	‘a lot, very’
ʔ^hečaw koʔdi	‘very good’	šaʔka	‘black’
k^haʔ:ičaw mehšew	‘(it) smells bad’		
k^hoʔdi mehšew	‘(it) smells good’		

NOUNS

hay:u	‘dog’	ʔač:ay	‘man’	baʔ:ay	‘woman’
ka:wi	‘child’	ka:wiya	‘children’	ba:yawya	‘young boy’
ma:ʔawya	‘young girl’			ʔahča	‘house’