



HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Reconciliation Week 2020 - In This Together

RECONCILIATION BEGINS WITH OUR YOUNG

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



We all have a role to play when it comes to Reconciliation, and in playing our part, we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

Link to Reconciliation Australia <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/>

Our early childhood services have this same commitment to Reconciliation, and we recognise that 'learning about and valuing the place of Aboriginal people will enhance all Victorian children's sense of place in our community' (DET 2016).

Aboriginal cultures and histories may be incorporated into children's programs through developing a connection with local Aboriginal Elders, Acknowledgement of Country that services are located on, building an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags, and the sharing of picture books, music, art and resources. Most importantly, it is a shared learning opportunity within communities.

WHAT YOU COULD DO:

There are a number of links which can be opportunities to share Aboriginal cultures and histories with your children.

These include:

The picture book *Welcome to Country* written by Aunty Joy Murphy, a Senior Aboriginal Elder of the Wurundjeri People of Melbourne and surrounds in collaboration with Lisa Kennedy, a descendant of the Trawlwoolway People of the north-east coast of Tasmania.

Here is a link to a reading of *Welcome to Country* on the Storybox Website, accessible for the week of National Simultaneous Storytime between May 25 - June 1 2020: <https://bit.ly/welcome-to-country-story>

Username: 2020nss

Password: 2020nss

The Playschool episode *Acknowledgement of Country* shares knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and highlights the importance of caring for Country.

<https://bit.ly/play-school-acknowledgement>

Little Yarns on ABC kids Listen is a collection of 'listening to yarns' and learning Language. They explore the diverse languages, stories and countries of Indigenous Australia and are available to listen to in these audio resources. <https://bit.ly/little-yarns>

Jessica Staines is a Wiradjuri woman and founder of Koori Curriculum. This website has shared stories and conversations about Aboriginal culture.

<https://bit.ly/kooricurriculum>



WHAT LEARNING IS HAPPENING?

The learning that takes place is a greater understanding of the living culture of our First Nation's Peoples, and it is a beginning of children sharing in Reconciliation.



WHERE TO NEXT?

Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre in the Melbourne Museum could be a place for future visits. It includes a First People's exhibition, Milarri Garden trail and Wurreka - an etched wall installation - as well as eel feeding. <https://bit.ly/bunjilaka-mm>

