

Indigenous perspectives in early childhood programs

There are many ways of including Aboriginal perspectives in your early childhood setting:

- Read books in sandpit/outdoors in a circular shape
- Draw in sand /sand art, understanding different ways that people communicate messages like using symbols or directions drawn in dirt/sand; encouraging children to explore this by providing natural materials eg sticks stones leaves etc in the environment both indoor and outdoor,
- Explore native flora and fauna, cooking using bush/native foods,
- Use language-words, and learning songs,
- Oral telling of stories, drawing symbols in sand to recount story and dreaming stories and through books,
- Look at artwork, not only traditional artists and artefacts but contemporary artists (Note don't need to state Aboriginal artist but studying individual artist and their style of art), Being in nature, going for local walks- connectedness to country,
- Gain an understanding and respect for all living things,
- Use natural materials like native grasses for weaving, stone painting/symbols, sticks for making animals etc, natural materials in playdough, symbols in small world play, writing area, sandpit

References and further information:

The Aboriginal Early Childhood Practice Guide and *The Aboriginal Early Childhood Planning Guide* by Jessica Staines and Red Ruby Scarlett.

Anti-bias Approach in Early Childhood 3rd edition by Dr Red Ruby Scarlett.

Fair's Fair: How to tackle Bias in Education and Care Services by Lisa Bryant and Dr Red Ruby Scarlett.

Becoming with Art in Early Childhood and Reflecting on Reflective Practice by Stephen Gallen and Dr Red Ruby Scarlett.