



Play School

ABC Kids Early Education Notes National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day special episode: **Yarning and Dreaming**

BACKGROUND

Presented by Miah Madden and Luke Carroll, Play School's Yarning and Dreaming celebrates Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children. Developed in collaboration with SNAICC, Koori Curriculum, Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, this episode is a celebration of Australia's First Nations songs and stories. With special guest presenter Christine Anu, this Play School special will encourage audiences to acknowledge Country and share their hopes and dreams for the future.

ABOUT NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is an initiative of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC). The day has been acknowledged on August the 4th since 1988.

It is an opportunity to show support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, as well as learn about the crucial role that culture, family and community play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

Play School's Yarning and Dreaming special episode first aired on the 4th of August 2022. The theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in 2022 is 'My Dreaming, My Future'. Read more on the [National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day website](#) or via the SNAICC social media platforms.

This episode becomes part of a dedicated collection to support our Play School audience build understandings about diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, languages and histories - through play, stories, music, dance and visual arts.

WELCOME TO PLAY SCHOOL MIAH!

In Play School's Yarning and Dreaming we are excited to welcome new presenter Miah Madden.

“Growing up, my favourite show to watch was Play School! I would sing and dance in time with the presenters and even follow along in the arts and crafts segments with crafty bits and pieces I had at home. My all-time favourite toy was Little Ted- I thought he looked sooo cute and cuddly!

I started acting in primary school, my first job being on 'The Sapphires'. I fell in love with the idea of storytelling and playing a character and haven't stopped since! I absolutely loved being silly as a child (and as a young adult too!), my family would sit on the couch and I would dance and sing and do impressions of funny people on TV. I love making people laugh!

When I got the opportunity to work on Play School it was a dream come true. I felt like a fan visiting the set on my first day! I got to finally meet Little Ted, do some arts and crafts with presenters I've admired my whole life and I got to sing and dance and be a little bit silly! I can't wait for my future as a Play School presenter. ”

Watch now on ABC iview



- [Play School's Yarning and Dreaming](#)
- [Play School's Walking Together](#)
- [Play School's Acknowledgement of Country.](#)



FOLLOW-UP EARLY EDUCATION SUGGESTIONS

WHO'S COUNTRY DO YOU LIVE ON?

Use the [AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia](#) and the [Gambay First Languages Map](#) (digital resource) to identify the Nation that you live on. What do you know about Country? Learn about your local First Nations community by visiting galleries and museums, attending local community events and connecting with Traditional Owners and Cultural Custodians.

These maps can be used to teach about the diversity of First Nations peoples. Refer to the maps when reading First Nations books, viewing art or listening to music to scaffold children's knowledge of the authors, artists and illustrators and the communities that they come from.



Visit the [Gambay Map](#) to hear language and cultural stories from Australia's First Nations language speakers.



Miah and Luke give an Acknowledgment of Country to begin Yarning and Dreaming. How does your early learning setting acknowledge Country?

CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY

You can see and feel lots of things on Country. Take children on a sensory walk with Country; can they find something smooth, rough, hard, soft, flat or round? Guide children in their observations by asking them what they can feel, see and hear.

Connecting children with the same places on Country regularly supports them to build a deeper connection and awareness of Country's signs, signals and changes. This lays a foundation for further learning about traditional seasons.

Information about some Country's traditional seasons can be found on the [Bureau of Meteorology Website](#). Make a progressive nature journal by drawing the changes that you observe on Country over a period of time.

Consider planting species that are endemic to your area. By doing this you will be caring for Country, opening up green corridors for wildlife whilst observing and tracking the seasons.



Christine Anu sings and dances with Miah and Luke.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples use and create various types of percussion instruments including clapping sticks and Kulaps. These instruments are made from nature using wood and seeds. Borrow and use some natural materials from Country or source some recycled materials to make your own musical instruments.

Learn more about Wiradjuri Woman, musician and storyteller Sharron Mirri Bell creator of the song “Stomp” by visiting her website www.indigenoussights.com.au

Source authentic First Nation children’s songs and albums to use in your daily practice and music curriculum. Here are just a few to get you started.

- [ABC Kids listen](#) Indigenous Lullabies
- ‘Stand and Grow Warrahabu Buwanhabu’ by Sue Lewin, Sharron Lindh and Peter Stewart
- ‘NGAMA’ by Sharron Mirri Bell
- ‘Yalaynha Yuluwirriw - Following the Rainbow songs’ by Milan Dhiyaan
- ‘Look, Learn, Sing and Dance’ by Trish and Noel Butler
- ‘Frangipani Land’ by The Mills Sisters

Tip: As some of these tracks use a mixture of English and Traditional language it’s a good opportunity to use the [Gambay Map](#) your [AIATSIS](#).

[MAP of Indigenous Australia](#) to identify and acknowledge the Nation where the language comes from.

Look up Yaali Collective ‘Can You Culture Cards’ online. The cards offer unique, interactive ways of learning basic sounds and movements, based on Aboriginal Culture and Native Animals. These cards can be used to choreograph a dance sequence with children.

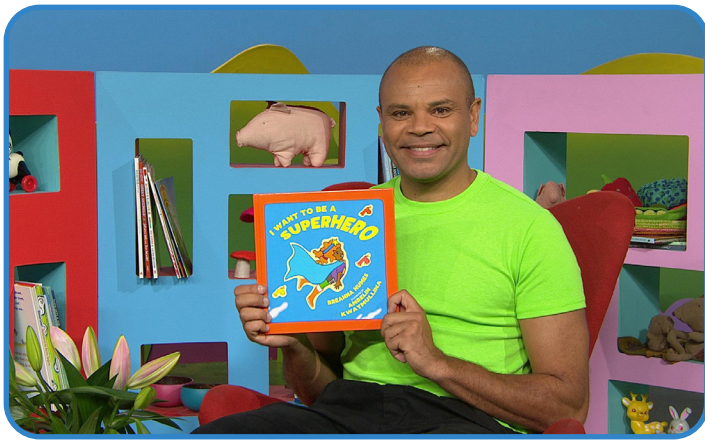


Christine and Miah explore Kulap Shakers and make another shaker from up-cycled loose parts.

Babies and toddlers can explore natural percussion instruments as alternatives to traditional plastic rattles.



Image courtesy of Koori Curriculum



Luke reads 'I Want to be a Superhero' by Breanna Humes and Ambelin Kwaymullina.

READ WITH ME

'Napangardis Bush Tucker Walk' by Lyndal Stavrou is similar to the told story used for toy play in this episode. Napangardi fills her coolamon with bush tucker to take to her friend Napurrula but some cheeky bush animals play a trick on her. This book includes words in Alyawarr the traditional language of the Mungkarta area in the Northern Territory.

- A small world play experiences or dramatic play area could then be set up allowing children to recall, retell and adapt the narrative to fit their own local context.
- Tip: Use craft materials to make props of some of the bush tucker to be used in play.
- During toy play Kiya shares knowledge of Noongar language and the animals and bush tucker of Noongar Country - the south-western region of Western Australia which includes 14 different language groups. For more information about beautiful Noongar Country visit the [South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council](#) website.

SUPERHEROES

It's important for our children to see themselves reflected and celebrated in the world around them. Research and learn about First Nation heroes by:

- Reading the book 'Heroes Rebels and Innovators' by Karen Wyld. This book showcases seven important and influential Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Listen to the song and read the book 'Our Home, Our Heartbeat' by Adam Briggs, a story about the celebration of past and present Indigenous legends.
- Research previous NAIDOC award winners and create a hall of fame.
- Display the First Nations Change Maker posters from Wingaruru Education. This set was developed to highlight the stories of change makers and to encourage children to engage with the 2022 NAIDOC theme 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!'.
- Check out the Yaali Collective 'Deadly Squad' card game. The set includes ten deadly characters that represent Aboriginal men,



Kookaburra in Noongar is "ka-kaa".

Extend upon children's knowledge of bush tucker by reading the bush tucker children book series by Leanne Murner which included titles such as 'Franki and the Banksia', 'Luca and the Coastal Wattle' and 'Leo and the Grasstree'.



Costal Pigface is known as **Bain** in Noongar. Parts of the plant have medicinal use and it's also an edible bushfood.



Image courtesy of Koori Curriculum, Trish Evans Photography.

women and sports. They also highlight days of significance, traditional foods, family dynamics and ways of being. The characters also represent spirits, totems and native animals.

Identify native plants in your area and investigate some of their traditional uses. Explore the possibility of cooking and crafting with some of your local native plants.

Recommend Resource: 'The Bush Tukka Guide' by Samantha Martin.

ABOUT PLAY SCHOOL'S YARNING AND DREAMING COLLABORATORS

SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDER CHILD CARE (SNAICC)

SNAICC – National Voice for our Children is the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. SNAICC works for the fulfilment of the rights of our children and exists to see all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow up healthy, happy and safe. Over the past 40 years, SNAICC has worked to influence policy reform at state, territory, and federal levels and in developing innovative and useful resources for families and practitioners in early years education and care, child safety and child rights.

THE KOORI CURRICULUM

Directed by Jessica Staines, Koori Curriculum is an Aboriginal Early Childhood consultancy that supports early childhood educators to grow their cultural confidence and capacity. Koori Curriculum works with educators across all different service types assisting them to embed Aboriginal perspectives in their curriculum and form meaningful relationships with their local Aboriginal community

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

Reconciliation Australia is an independent not-for-profit organisation and the national body for reconciliation. Reconciliation Australia promotes and facilitates reconciliation by building relationships,

respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Reconciliation Australia's Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education program has resources and tools for schools and early learning services to contribute to the reconciliation movement. Narragunnawali (pronounced narra-gunna-wally) is a word from the language of the Ngunnawal people and means alive, wellbeing, coming together and peace. The word narragunnawali is used with permission of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council.

SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL LAND AND SEA COUNCIL

The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) is the central services corporation providing support to the regional corporations to implement the South West Native Title Settlement. The Settlement is the largest native title settlement in Australian history, affecting an estimated 30,000 Noongar people and encompassing approximately 200,000 square kilometres in the South West, and has been described as 'Australia's First Treaty'. SWALSC works to advance and improve economic and social outcomes for Noongar people, to assist traditional custodians with the planning, management and use of their land and waters, and to support and inspire a strong and unified Noongar Nation.

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