



Educator Notes – Kalaw Kawaw Ya

Episodes

Heart in Kalaw Kawaw Ya

Strength in Kalaw Kawaw Ya

Crocodile and cassowary in Kalaw Kawaw Ya

Overview

Aaron takes Rudi and the kids on a long journey right up to the top of Australia to Cape York peninsula (the pointy bit of Australia), then across the sea to the Torres Strait Island of Saibai.

Consider how Aaron's episodes of *Little Yarns* can extend children's knowledge of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander language and culture. How can provocations from Kalaw Kawaw Ya language learning enrich your program for children and families?

Extension Ideas

Do you know where the Saibai and the Torres Strait Islands are? Check out the [Gambay First Languages Map](#) to find out more.

[The Torres Strait Traditional Languages Centre](#) is a helpful resource for educators looking to extend their knowledge of Torres Strait Islander language and culture.

Your time for heartfulness and relaxation

Aaron shares his deep connection and sense of belonging to Saibai. Although Aaron has lived in different places, he feels his **ngoentakap** (heart) belongs in Saibai. Aaron also shares the word **magaw** (strength) and explains that strength is not always about being tough and having big muscles. It can also mean to have strength of character, to show kindness and respect for others and to be brave just to be yourself.

Children's sense of being and belonging is nurtured as important components of ongoing early childhood programs – reflecting on what makes us feel content and connected to ourselves and our place is a big part of this.

We are also hearing more about heartfulness and mindfulness in early childhood and learning about how these ideas can be interpreted from a pedagogical perspective.

There are plenty of interesting resources available online to find out more, including [heartfulnessmagazine](#) and in Early Childhood Australia's Blog, [TheSpoke](#).

When working in busy and emotionally demanding early learning settings, it is important to have some quiet time for yourself each day and nurture opportunities for colleagues to do so as well. Perhaps allow an extra 15 minutes at the end of your programming time. Enough time to focus on you, peacefully contemplate and deep breathe. Visit [zerotothree](#) to find out more.

Link to **EYLF Principle 5: Ongoing learning and reflective practice**; moments of quiet downtime allow for meaningful reflection and lead to more tuned-in engagement with children, colleagues, and families.

Move like keodal and samu (crocodile and cassowary)

Aaron describes the important animals of his clan, his totems, **keodal** and **samu**. We hear about how each animal looks and behaves – keodal is quiet, still, and likes to watch before she moves. Samu is big and powerful and likes to protect his baby chicks.

Recall some of these characteristics with children, then encourage them to have a go at moving like each animal. You could keep the beat with percussion instruments as children move about.

Need more inspiration for expressive keodal and samu movement? ABC Education have an interesting video called '[Crocodiles up close](#)' and check out a [cassowary up close](#) at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Link this experience with EYLF outcomes 5.5 and 4.3.

Additionally, a guide to embed ideas of reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories into physical wellness and PDHPE activities can be found here [Health and Physical Education resource guide](#). This should be used in consultation of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.





ABC KIDS listen acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands, waterways and skies of Saibai. We thank you for sharing and caring for the land we learn and play on. We pay our respects to Elders of the Keodal and Samu clans, and we share our friendship and kindness.

Sabai Island, Torres Strait		Language - Kalaw Kawaw Ya	
Focus Word		Meaning	
Ngoenakap		Heart	
Magaw		Strength	
Keodal		Crocodile	
Samu		Cassowary	



Image: Keodal (crocodile), Pexels.com



Images: Samu (cassowary), Flickr.com