

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

# Educator Notes – Yugambeh Episodes

Moon in Yugambeh Child in Yugambeh Mother in Yugambeh

### Overview

Hunter takes Rudi and the kids on a journey along the coast to Queensland, to Yugambeh Country. There are beautiful beaches, lush rainforest and tall mountains hugging the land. Hunter shares some words with us in Yugambeh. You can learn them too!

Consider how Hunter's episodes of *Little Yarns* can extend children's knowledge of Aboriginal & Torres

Strait Islander language and culture. How can provocations from Yugambeh language learning enrich your program for children and families?

### **Extension ideas**

Where is Yugambeh Country? Check out the <u>Gambay</u> <u>First Languages Map</u> to find out more. The <u>Yugambeh</u> <u>Museum</u> website is a helpful resource for educators looking to extend their knowledge of Yugambeh Country and culture. The site links to a practical <u>Yugambeh language learning platform</u> for schools and early childhood settings.

# Sense of belonging through story sharing

Hunter explains how hearing family stories when he was a **jarjumm** (child) helped him to develop a strong sense of belonging and a strong connection to his Yugambeh Country, even though he didn't grow up there.

Nurturing a sense of belonging is a priority when working with children and families – we get to know each other by sharing stories about ourselves and talking about what matters most to us. Invite children to talk about what matters to them. Create a 'Belonging Book'. Questions to help get the discussion started may include:

- What makes you feel happy?
- What is special about the place you live?
- Describe how a favourite place makes you feel.

Link this experience to EYLF Outcomes 1.3, 2.1, 2.2.

Document children's ideas in a scrap book, including space for families and educators to add their thoughts too. Invite children to illustrate the book and display in an area families and children can view together.



Image: Curtis Falls at Tamborine Mountain National Park, Flicker.com

Visit Early Childhood Australia's Blog, The Spoke, to discover more about <u>promoting a sense of belonging</u> for children and and families at your early learning setting.

There may be opportunities to dig a little deeper into the theme of family and kinship in this unit, provided it is culturally appropriate to do so by the Yugambeh community. Consult with local Yugambeh community to find out more.

## **Chain of Kindness**

Wadjung means mother in Yugambeh language, and to Hunter, wadjung is more than a parent – she's mother earth, mother nature and mother universe! Wadjung looks after us and we must look after wadjung in return - just like our own mothers, or mother figures. Hunter believes you don't have to be a mum to have a maternal side, we can all be sensitive and kind and help look after each other. Hunter asks listeners: How do you look after other people?

Encourage children to reflect on what they do to look after their friends and family, and what others do to look after them. Write children's thoughts on strips of coloured paper, then loop and connect each strip to make a kindness paper chain. Hang the chain in a special place in your room – perhaps around the door frame in your entry area.

## Exploring the cycle of the gibam (moon)

We learn that **gibam** is the Yugambeh word for moon. Hunter explains the special connection he feels with moon phases – each cycle representing new beginnings and moving forward. Investigate the fascinating phases of the moon by visiting <a href="National Geographic Kids">National Geographic Kids</a>. Further embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, visit <a href="Australian Indigenous Astronomy">Australia's First Astronomers</a> and <a href="Star Stories of the Dreaming">Star Stories of the Dreaming</a> online to find out more.