

Educator Notes – palawa kani

Episodes

ningi - Mum

takariliya - Family

riyawina - To play

Overview

ya! Rudi and the kids take us on a journey to meet Tessa in lutruwita (Tasmania) down at the bottom of Australia. In lutruwita the days are windy, and the land is wild and beautiful – we go through the bush, down onto the rocks and look out to sea. Listening to crashing waves and birds in the trees, Tessa shares some words with us in *palawa kani*. You can learn them too!

Consider how *Little Yarns* can extend children’s perspectives around Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander language and culture. How can provocations from *palawa kani* learning enrich your program for children and families?

Extension ideas

Where is palawa Country? Check out the [Gambay First Languages Map](#) to find out more.

Tessa describes her special place on palawa Country - standing on the orange rocks in lutruwita. This has been a special place to her ancestors for thousands of years.

- Encourage children to share thoughts about their special place: *What makes it special? Does it have a familiar sound or smell? What happens there?* Document children’s ideas. Invite children to draw their special place. Jot down children’s stories about their special place on a separate page then laminate and bind into a sharing book.

The importance of family is a strong focus in Tessa’s episodes of *Little Yarns*. Mother-figures are special to all of us. **ningi** is the *palawa kani* word for mum and **takariliya** means family.

- Read story books with **ningi** and mother-figures as central characters. Encourage children to identify some of things that make those women special. What makes the mother-figures in their lives so important?



Image: David Clode – larapuna, lutruwita (Bay of Fires, Tasmania)

The campfire is a symbol of togetherness and having a great time on palawa Country. All the kids and grown-ups get together to eat and **riyawina** (to play)!

- Create a ‘family sharing tree’ to celebrate the families at your service. Find some large fallen branches, tie securely then push into a big bucket of sand. Annotate children’s portraits of their families and display on the branches. A great project to share on Grandparent’s Day.
- What are the some of the activities shared by families at your service?
- Using this *Little Yarn* as inspiration, plan your own unique party or get-together to celebrate the special connection children and families accessing your service share. Brainstorm ideas with children – what will you play, eat, hear, see etc. Invite families and extended members of your community to join the party and **riyawina**!



Image left: Nathan Lindahl.
Right: yula (mutton bird, Wikipedia).

For additional resources, contact the
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre:
<http://tacinc.com.au/programs/palawa-kani/>



Country: palawa

Language: *palawa kani*

Focus word	Meaning
ningi	mum
takariliya	family
riyawina	To play
lutruwita	Tasmania

Additional words	Meaning
ya	hello
wulika	goodbye
Muyini	palawa Creator Spirit
wurangkili	sky
nanalini	hills
minanya	rivers
tina	animals

Note: *palawa kani* tribe names and people's names are capitalised. Capitalisation is optional with other words and a way to distinguish the differences between