Social Justice: Inspiring the use of Aboriginal Culture in the everyday program

Indigenous Early Childhood Curriculum and Self Determination in Victoria”

Dr Sue Lopez-Atkinson

Presented by Annette Sax
Aboriginal Education Consultant
Yarn Strong Sista
Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge
The traditional owners of the land
On which we live and learn.
We pay respects to them
For their care of the land
Over countless generations.
We hope they will walk with us
On our journey
As we share friendship together.

Taken from “Going Bush” by Nadia Wheatley and Kean Searle
Learning Outcomes

• Have an understanding of Dr Sue Lopez-Atkinson’s research ‘What Indigenous Elders want children to learn about Aboriginal culture’

• Encourage all children to learn about the culture of the First People of Australia….Steps towards Social Justice.

• Feel inspired to promote Aboriginal culture as part of everyday program

• To create a ‘Nature Bouquet’ using natural and recycled materials
YSS conducts Storytelling in ECE Programs

We share Aboriginal Early Childhood Pedagogy with students attending Universities and TAFE

YSS presents at Conferences Nationally

YSS develops programs and resources for FKA, SNAICC, DET and Cancer Council of VIC.

YSS resources are made ethically by Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Artisans.

The late Aunty Iris Lovett-Gardiner, Gunditjmara Elder
The following material summarizes some of the discussions Sue Lopez-Atkinson, Doctor of Philosophy (Education) has had with her local Indigenous Early Childhood Community as part of her research project.
What Indigenous Elders Want Children to Learn About Their Culture
Learning about their Clan Group and their Totem
Learning about their Traditional Language
Received Thursday 16 October 2008-11-02

The reason for the email is that we have been using your Spin a Yarn game with the children here at lakes and have been working on a project to make a book. Each child has told their own yarn which i have written down and then they have drawn their own pictures and i have taken their photo with their work and included it in the book. Have done this with 80 children and we have included the local Gunai language as well.

Instead of just using it in the kinder we have decided to have a book launch at the library at lakes entrance and let the whole community be involved. It is also to help provide links between the kinder, library and families and encourage Koorie families to access the library. We would love to have u at our launch and will be sending you an official invitation. Thinking of either the 14th Nov or the 21st Nov depending on the availability. Have sent you some photos of the children and their work.

Yarrabee
Jenny
Koorie Preschool Assistant
Lakes Entrance
“Learning to read the land, through reading animal tracks and observing changes in flora and fauna with the changing of the seasons”
Dr Sue Lopez - Atkinson
Connecting to Country
Learning Respect for the Elders as Teachers of Environmental Knowledge

The late Aunty Glenys Mery Taungurung

Aunty Fay Muir Boon Wurrung Elder

- This knowledge is usually learnt within the family and or Indigenous specific early childhood centers such as the MACS, non-Indigenous early childhood professionals should consult with Indigenous families and communities around how they can be part of this process.
TAKE SMALL STEPS!

- Is your early childhood setting inviting?
- Can the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander flag be seen?
- Is there a plaque acknowledging the traditional owners?
• Display posters in your program that reflects the diversity of your Aboriginal & TSI Community

• Don’t forget the diversity that exists within the Aboriginal community throughout Australia

• Ask a teacher who has been accepted by the local community to inform you of the protocols of the area. Have them introduce you to the community.
PROGRAMMING

• Focus on the local community and building the relationship.
• Use contemporary resources that reflect your local Indigenous community

Boroondara Kindergarten
Richmond, Victoria
May the Aboriginal Elders
Lead you to walk respectfully with Aboriginal people
Lead you to see the wisdom in the earth, air and rivers
Lead you to hear their stories of life, land and being
May the Elders voices guide you in courage and wisdom
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