

Reconciliation in practice

- engaging young children in acts of
acknowledgement, justice and understanding



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Why Reconciliation in ECEC?

Reconciliation aims to encourage cooperation and improve harmony between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. It involves improving relationships by developing understanding of how history has shaped our relationship with each other and the importance of respecting each other's culture. Reconciliation is important not only to Indigenous people but also to Australia's future as a cohesive nation.

<http://www.racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/factsheets/8.html>

Bringing children into the public sphere celebrates their potential to contribute and lets them feel the pulse of their future lives.

Nimmo 1998

ECA Code of Ethics – revised 2016

Core Principles

- Each child has unique interests and strengths and the capacity to contribute to their communities.
- Children are citizens from birth with civil, cultural, linguistic, social and economic rights.
- Effective learning and teaching is characterised by professional decisions that draw on specialised knowledge and multiple perspectives.
- Partnerships with families and communities support shared responsibility for children's learning, development and wellbeing.
- Democratic, fair and inclusive practices promote equity and a strong sense of belonging.
- Respectful, responsive and reciprocal relationships are central to children's education and care.
- Play and leisure are essential for children's learning, development and wellbeing.
- Research, inquiry and practice based evidence inform quality education and care.



Different approaches to embedding Indigenous perspectives in practice

Practical

- Inclusion of puzzles, posters, books, dolls, artwork and images representing Indigenous peoples and cultures
- Atypical curriculum activities such as painting boomerangs and didgeridoos, dot paintings and outdoor cultural games

Symbolic

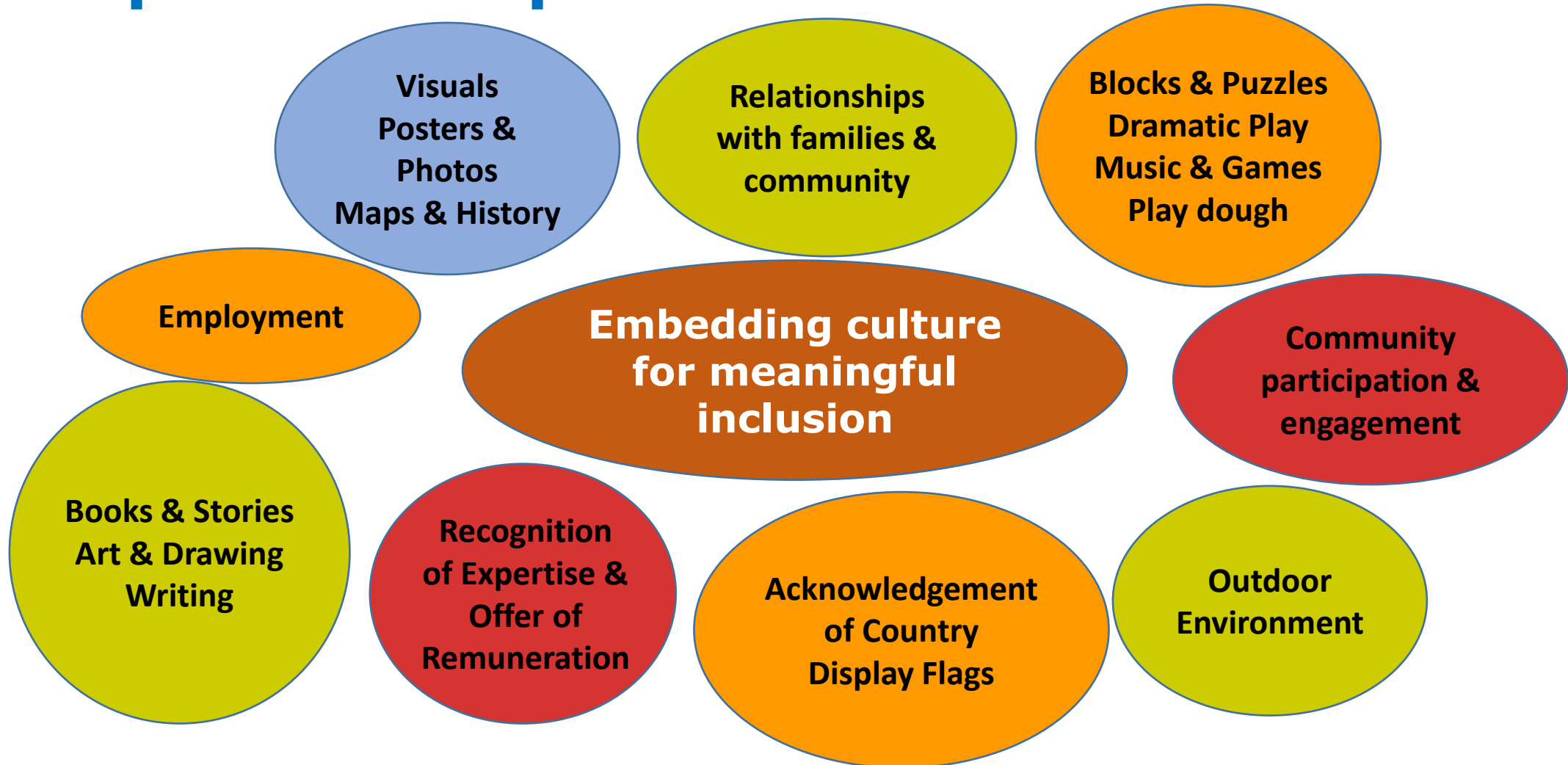
- Display of an Aboriginal flag and Torres Strait Islander flag in the reception area *Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners* spoken as part of the curriculum and at key events
- Map of Aboriginal Australia on display and used within curriculum activities

Substantive

- The development of working relationships with Indigenous people and organisations in the local community
- Procedures that invite the participation of Indigenous people in decision-making processes
- Remuneration offered for the expertise of Indigenous people
- The development of a workforce strategy to employ Indigenous child care professionals within the service

Melinda Miller Educating Young Children - Learning and teaching in the early childhood years Vol 17, No 2, 2011 37

Different approaches to embedding Indigenous perspectives in practice



Make connections & Build Relationships



Recognition and Respect



**Engage & celebrate with
your local community**

Sorry Day

National Reconciliation Week

NAIDOC Week

National Aboriginal & Torres
Strait Islander Children's Day

and more...

Opportunities for Inclusion



Provide a range of resources,
materials & information

Engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander peoples in the programs and
provide opportunities for employment



Show respect and an openness to
connect with the local community



Bring people together to
share stories of the past
and present –
share their stories

Getting Started...

- Understand the competencies and abilities of all staff to confidently embed culture – undertake training, self-initiated learning...
- Explore your local community, make contact – slowly but often. Let people know who you are – be known to them. Relationships are two way.
- Relate the children's current interests to cultural practices – interests in space, fire, animals, food, art, drawing...
- Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through Narragunnawali and Reconciliation Australia (RA)

Where next...

Reconciliation Australia

www.reconciliation.org.au

Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

www.snaicc.org.au

Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies

www.aiatsis.gov.au

National Aboriginal & Islander Day Observance Committee

www.naidoc.org.au

Aboriginal Land Councils

www.alc.org.au

Koori Mail – National fortnightly newspaper

www.koorimail.com

First Nations Telegraph – daily online current affairs & news

www.firstnationstelegraph.com

KidsMatter – Resources focussing on children's mental health & wellbeing

www.kidsmatter.edu.au