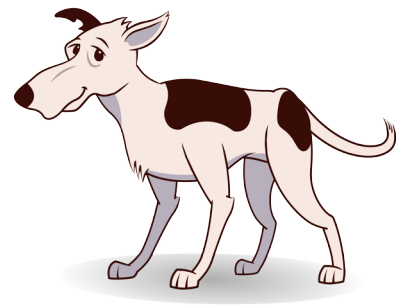




## EPISODE 9

# Old Monster Dog



### Educators

The learning documents for each episode are a spring-board for engaging with and embedding Indigenous perspectives and pedagogies in early childhood environments. The following ideas have been developed to engage educators and children in diverse ways. The intention to provide a starting point and educators are encouraged to:

- Engage with local and broader Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities to learn from and with their communities.
- Engage with local and broader Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities to build authentic relationships.
- Consider the transitions that take place in children's lives every day and our role as educators to work with children and families to support them during this time. The moments of transition can be big events such as the transition from early childhood into Primary school, coming from home into Kinder every day or from one learning experience to another in the early learning environment.
- Consider the spaces in your indoor and outdoor environments and the possibilities of the key ideas of Indigenous knowledge and culture and how these can build on current understandings and create new learning opportunities with children, families and community.
- Engage with your local community to grow a language that shares and respects the voices of Indigenous peoples, their knowledge and their cultures.

### EYLF Belonging, Being and Becoming

LEARNING OUTCOMES				
Children have a strong sense of identity	Children are connected with and contribute to their world	Children have a strong sense of wellbeing	Children are confident and involved learners	Children are effective communicators
<p>1.1 Children feel safe, secure, and supported</p> <p>1.2 Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency</p> <p>1.3 Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities</p> <p>1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect</p>	<p>2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation</p> <p>2.2 Children respond to diversity with respect</p> <p>2.3 Children become aware of fairness</p> <p>2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment</p>	<p>3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing</p> <p>3.2 Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing</p>	<p>4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity</p> <p>4.2 Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesizing, researching and investigating</p> <p>4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another</p> <p>4.4 Children resources their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials</p>	<p>5.1 Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes</p> <p>5.2 Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts</p> <p>5.3 Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media</p> <p>5.4 Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work</p> <p>5.5 Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking</p>

## Synopsis

**Little J is convinced there's a real live monster in the backyard.**

Little J enlists Levi's help to build a monster trap in the back yard, convinced that the scary growling pink shape he saw in the dark is a monster. But why is Old Dog missing - and where is Nanna's pink dressing gown?

**What do we see happening for Little J during his transition to school?**

In this episode we see Little J learning from his peers' Indigenous knowledge about a being (magical creature) who is a part of stories that are shared to keep children safe. His teacher, Ms Chen, acknowledges Little J's creation of a mask, which he then uses after school to scare off what he believes to be a bunyip. Little J is becoming aware and familiar with the routines in school, and most importantly he is engaging with the process of design and creativity. Little J is able to transfer his skills of design and creativity from home to school. His family is involved in the transitions process as the class is a multi-age space.

Programmatic elements integral to high quality transition programs:

1. Broad focus on child development that prioritises capacity to learn over specific knowledge
2. Targeted approach to building children familiarity and relationships with school
3. Family engagement and involvement throughout the transition process. (pg4, SNAICC, 2014)

### WORKING WITH ABORIGINAL WORLDVIEWS, KNOWLEDGES AND COMMUNITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Indigenous knowledge and culture	Early Years Learning Curriculum through inquiry projects	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can design and make things by re-using what we have at home</li> <li>• We can learn from stories about our diverse and multicultural communities</li> <li>• Using your imagination is important</li> <li>• We all have a responsibility to care for Country</li> <li>• Elders, families and children are knowledge holders</li> <li>• Elders, families, friends and children are all important in caring for themselves and each other</li> <li>• Indigenous languages and communities are unique and diverse</li> </ul>	<p>Using the list of Indigenous knowledge and culture, or through the construction with children, families and communities, engage with the key points to create an early years learning curriculum through inquiry projects.</p>	<p>We would like you to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elders, families and children are knowledge holders</li> <li>• Engaging with our community to hear their stories of Country</li> <li>• Engaging with community members to share in their stories of their life experiences</li> <li>• Engaging with surrounding and broader communities' stories</li> </ul>

### EARLY YEARS LEARNING CURRICULUM: INDOOR & OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

The suggested learning experiences can be in both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

- Provide open ended materials, as selected with and by the children, to use in their play. Add sticks of assorted lengths, widths and textures, string and wool, boxes of assorted sizes and shapes and fabrics of assorted colours and textures to invite children to be creative and explore their current and new understandings of their encounters with the world around them and the stories shared in the Little J and Big Cuz series.
- Provide open ended materials, as selected with and by the children, to use in their play to investigate how things work in "traps". You could explore how "bush tucka" is collected in traps (eg fish traps, eel traps) and other ways to collect "bush tucka".
- Invite children to participate in a dramatic play experience by providing an assortment of fabrics, ribbons, strings and items of adornment (flowers, jewellery etc).
- Create or co-create a space that shares the key learning experiences or interests arising from the viewing of a particular episode. For this episode it could be providing different stories about 'beings' from different First Nations alongside the magical creatures as shared by Ms Chen.
- Invite children into intentional conversations to explore the key learning experiences or interests arising from the viewing of a specific episode. For this episode it could be a discussion about:
  - Ms Chen sharing a story on magical beasts or magical creatures. You could discuss beasts or beings representing the scary, the mysterious and the magical aspects of 'beasts'.

- bunyips: what they are and where do they come from?
  - whether there such a thing as a particular colour for monsters?
  - how can we be safe on Country?
  - the title 'Old Monster Dog'. This could provoke conversation around 'monsters' not always being as they first appear, and whether they are always scary. This could lead into discussions around stereotyping of those who look different, etc.
  - Old Dog, who is an important character in the series. This could lead into conversations about dingos and other animals that are important to children and their families.
  - celebrations that happen in the local community and from around the world (such as the Chinese/Lunar New Year), including the clothing, animals and decorations that are used in celebrations.
  - (These conversations can also be extended to become inquiry projects.)
- Provide a small collection of beautiful fabrics, buttons and beads of different textures, colours, sizes, and patterns to explore and wonder about in a space for resting, mindfulness and relaxation.
  - Provide opportunities for children to listen to a diverse range of music, and a space for them to encourage movements to explore the music with their bodies and other items such as scarves and ribbons.

### Picture books

The following picture books extend and build on the Indigenous knowledge and culture within the Little J and Big Cuz episode and series:

- Atkinson, S. and Sax, A. (2013). *Yurri's Birthday* : Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages
- Atkinson, S. and Sax, A. (2013). *Yurri's Manung* : Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages
- Boodjar, N. {various picture books} see: <http://noongarboodjar.com.au/publications/books/>
- Button, J. (2008). *Joshua and the Two Crabs*. Broome, W.A. : Magabala Books
- Morgan, S. & Erzinger, T. (2016). *Dingo in the Dark*. Gosford, NSW : Omnibus Books, an imprint of Scholastic Australia Pty Ltd
- Notley, W. Aunty Wendy's Mob CD: *Happy to be me* (with the accompanying Teaching Guide and Big Book)
- Notley, W. (2009). *The Hairy One*. Illustrated by Aunty Elaine Russell. Clayton South. Vic. : Blake Education
- Russell, E. (2000). *A is for Aunty*. Sydney : ABC Books for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation

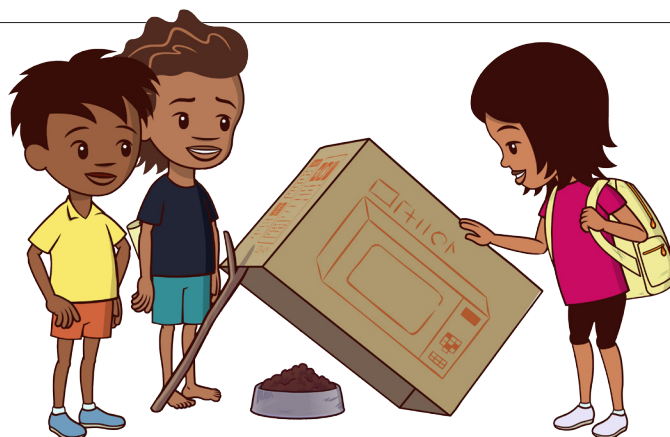
Books that extend and build on the Indigenous knowledge and culture

- The Gunitjmarra people with Wettenhall, G. *People of BudjBim*. (2010). Heywood, Vic. : em PRESS Publishing for the GungitjMirring Traditional Owners Corporation. (NOTE: This text is from the Gunitjmarra peoples. It is aimed at high school and above, however this could be shared with children to specifically consider the eel traps.)

### Web links

The following web links extend and build on the Indigenous knowledge and culture within the Little J and Big Cuz episode and series:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation\\_id=annotation\\_2990908051&feature=iv&src\\_vid=7uYKg1M6PRk&v=sq0fDD8nPuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_2990908051&feature=iv&src_vid=7uYKg1M6PRk&v=sq0fDD8nPuU), *Baiames Ngunnhu - the story of Brewarrina Fish Traps*. (2014) : Dept of Environment and Heritage
- <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2015/03/gallery-aboriginal-inventions/fish-traps>, *Australian Geographic Gallery: Aboriginal Inventions: Fish traps*. (2015) : Australian Geographic



## ADDITIONAL TEACHER RESOURCES

The following list of teacher resources can be used to guide and build on the pedagogy and curriculum within the learning experiences and the Indigenous knowledge and culture.

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Resource Portal*. Kids Matter: <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/atsi-resources/search>
- Atkinson, S. 12(3) *Indigenous Pedagogies in Early Years Education and Care Settings in Victoria - A story of Indigenous self determination*: [education.unimelb.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1338416/Members\\_Briefing\\_Papers\\_A\\_Collection\\_2014.pdf](http://education.unimelb.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1338416/Members_Briefing_Papers_A_Collection_2014.pdf)
- Boodjar, N. {various picture books}: <http://noongarboodjar.com.au/publications/books/>
- Crook, S. (2004). *Improvise Innovative Play Experiences for Children Under Eight*. Croydon : Victoria Tertiary Press
- Crook, S. & Farmer, B. (2002). *Just Imagine Creative Play Experiences for Children Under Six*. Croydon : Victoria Tertiary Press
- *Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) Fact Sheets*. SNAICC Resource. (2012). SNAICC: <http://www.supportingcarers.snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/02896.pdf>
- *8 Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families*. (June 2011). SNAICC: <http://www.snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/02761.pdf>
- *Facilitating Cultural Competence with Children*. FKA Children's Services: <http://fka.org.au/cms/uploads/docs/tip-sheet-facilitating-cultural-competence-with-children-final-0516.pdf>
- Farmer, R. & Fasoli, L. (2011). *You're in new country, Advice for non-Indigenous mentor's trainers and teachers*. Dubbo & online : Charles Sturt University: [http://eprints.batchelor.edu.au/277/1/Farmer\\_%26\\_Fasoli\\_2011\\_\\_You%27re\\_in\\_new\\_country.pdf](http://eprints.batchelor.edu.au/277/1/Farmer_%26_Fasoli_2011__You%27re_in_new_country.pdf)
- Fasoli, Lyn, Wunungmurra, Alison, Ecenarro, V and Fleet, A (2010) *Playing as becoming: Sharing Australian Aboriginal Voices on Play*. In: *Play in Early Childhood Education: Learning in Diverse Contexts*. Oxford University Press, Sydney. <http://eprints.batchelor.edu.au/235/>
- Flear, M. & Raban, B. (2007). *Early Childhood Literacy and Numeracy: Building Good Practice* : Canberra Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Flear, M. (2015). *Science for Children*. Port Melbourne, Vic. : Cambridge University Press
- *Foundations for Success: Guideline for extending and Enriching Learning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in the Kindergarten Year*. (2013) : Queensland. Dept of Education, Training and Employment
- *Journey to big school*. (2014). Victoria : SNAICC
- Lee-Hammond, L. and Jackson-Barrett, E. (2013) *Aboriginal children's participation and engagement in Bush School*. In: Knight, S., (ed.) *International Perspectives on Forest School*. SAGE Publications Ltd, London, England.
- Martin, K. (2005). *Childhood, Relatedness and Lifelihood: Aboriginal Ways of Being, Knowing and Doing*. in J Phillips & J Lampert (Eds) *Introductory Indigenous Studies in Education: the Importance of Knowing*. Sydney, NSW: Pearson Education.
- Martin, Karen L (2017) *Voices and Visions: Aboriginal Early Childhood Education in Australia*: Pademelton Press, Mt Victoria New South Wales
- Mason-White, H. (2014). *Journey to Big School: Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's transition to primary school*. North Fitzroy, Vic. : SNAICC: <http://www.snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/03316.pdf>
- Notley, W. *Aunty Wendy's Mob CD: Happy to be me* (with the accompanying Teaching Guide and Big Book)
- Nyernila – *Listen Continuously: Aboriginal Creation Stories of Victoria*, Creative Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL): [http://archive.creative.vic.gov.au/Projects\\_Initiatives/Indigenous\\_Arts\\_Initiatives/Nyernila\\_%E2%80%93Listen\\_Continuously\\_Aboriginal\\_Creation\\_Stories\\_of\\_Victoria](http://archive.creative.vic.gov.au/Projects_Initiatives/Indigenous_Arts_Initiatives/Nyernila_%E2%80%93Listen_Continuously_Aboriginal_Creation_Stories_of_Victoria)
- Queensland Dept of Education, Training and Employment, <http://www.foundationforsuccess.qld.edu.au/sites/ffs/files/resources/foundations-for-success.pdf>
- Scarlet, Dr R. R. (Ed.). (2016). *The Anti-Bias Approach in Early Childhood*, [3rd ed.]. Sydney N.S.W. : Multiverse Publishing
- *Supporting Transition to School for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children: What it means and what works*. (2013). SNAICC: <http://www.snaicc.org.au/supporting-transition-to-school-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-children-2013-report/>
- *Talking Up Our Strengths*. (2009) : SNAICC and Innovative Resources, SNAICC: <https://innovativeresources.org/resources/card-sets/talking-up-our-strengths/>
- *Teaching Resources* : Magabala Books: <https://www.magabala.com/resources>
- Young, T & Elliot, S. (2003). *Just Investigate Science and Technology Experiences for Young Children*. Croydon, Vic. : Tertiary Press
- *Yulunga: Traditional Indigenous Games*. (2009). Canberra : Australian Sports Commission: [http://www.ausport.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/376139/SP\\_31864\\_TIG\\_resource\\_K-3.pdf](http://www.ausport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/376139/SP_31864_TIG_resource_K-3.pdf)
- *Yulunga: Traditional Indigenous Games Resource Package*. (2009). Canberra : Australian Sports Commission: <http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/promotion-resources?lid=18559>

## REFERENCES

- *Belonging, being and becoming: The early years learning framework for Australia.* (2009). Canberra, ACT: Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations for the Council of Australian Governments [DEEWR], Commonwealth of Australia  
<https://www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework>
- *Journey to big school.* (2014). Victoria : SNAICC  
<http://www.snaicc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/03316.pdf>

