Marrung Koorie Kids Shine

Best Practice video

Valley Brook Kindergarten

**Aunty Geraldine, Elder:**

Early learning sets children up for life. Early learning children is about making sure that they develop confidence in learning, in being who they are, it’s about expressing themselves in socialising with other children, and it’s confidence about being able to interact with teachers.

**Diana, Educator:**

I think just creating a very welcoming and culturally safe environment for our Koorie families has been a huge benefit because as they come in the door, they see the flag, they see the Wominjeka sign in our foyer and they straightaway feel this is a culturally safe place for them, and it’s already broken the ice and we can start developing the relationship. So we would like every child to know a lot about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

So we’ll have handprints, we’ll have paintings with colours of the Aboriginal flag or Torres Strait Islander flag. We might have musical instruments, we sing a lot of songs, read a lot of stories.

**Travis, Koorie Engagement Support Officer:**

The people other services can speak to for advice about Koorie culture would be local community, your co-ops, your lands councils, but also if you’ve got any Elders in your community you know of, but also your Koorie Engagement Support Officer. We’re here to support local community, schools, kinders to embed Koorie culture so that all their kids can feel culturally safe.

**Debbie, Educator:**

The feedback’s been positive from Indigenous families and non-Indigenous families. They like the fact that we’re embedding this culture within our service and teaching it to their children.

**Aunty Vera, Elder:**

Don’t be afraid. Talk to somebody if you’re wanting to introduce a Koorie program, you’ll find somebody to help you to be able to do, you know, the right thing within your kindergarten.