

# Tip sheet: Embed meaningful and appropriate Koorie perspectives into your early years programming

If you want to include more First Nations perspectives in your practice, it can be tricky to know what content is community-endorsed and relevant to your local context. The [VAEAI](#) Early Years Team has put together this tip sheet to help you evaluate resources that include Aboriginal content and ensure they are meaningful and appropriate.



1

## Tip 1: Reach out to VAEAI's Early Years Engagement Program (EYEP)

If you want to develop partnerships with your local Koorie community, VAEAI's Early Years Engagement Facilitators (EYEFs) are here to help.

[The EYEP program](#) is funded by the Victorian Department of Education from 2024 to 2028 to work with 65 pre-established Early Years Learning Networks (EYLN). VAEAI's eight place-based facilitators work within these networks, attending services to better and more appropriately connect early years services to local Aboriginal organisations, services, and resources.

2

## Tip 2: Consider a professional development session

VAEAI runs professional development sessions for early childhood educators. These sessions have already helped hundreds of early childhood educators to feel confident in embedding Aboriginal content in their services.

State-funded early years services can access funding to attend these professional development sessions through the Department of Education's [School Readiness Funding](#) model.

3

## Tip 3: Think local

The first step in meaningful teaching is knowing what information to share and why you should share it.

Australia is a vast continent that Aboriginal people have occupied for tens of thousands of years. Over 200 Aboriginal language groups exist, each with its own customs and traditions.

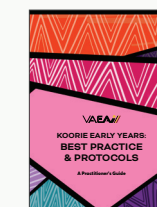
For people unfamiliar with Aboriginal history, that diversity of language, customs and ancestry may not seem that important. But imagine if we were in a different context. Say, we are talking about European history. If someone asked you for a history of Italy, you wouldn't give them information about Germany and think, 'eh, that will do...'

We teach local Aboriginal history because it is true to the rich history of Aboriginal people and to the history of Australia.

4

## Tip 4: Read about Koorie protocols and practices

When you have your professional development and resources in hand, you can always refresh your knowledge of protocols and practices by referring to VAEAI's reference materials.

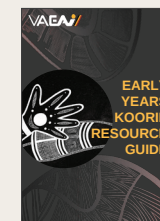


Early childhood educators can access [VAEAI's Koorie Early Years: Best Practice and Protocols – A Practitioner's Guide](#). Use this hand-in-hand with [VAEAI](#) and [VIA's Walking Together](#) inclusion support and protocols resource.



Read these guides for assistance on how to form connections with your local Aboriginal community, and who to consult when looking for resources and education activities.

## Educators can access community-endorsed learning resources from places such as:



### The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI)

VAEAI has produced a [Koorie Early Years Resource Guide](#) with approved learning resources, activities and directory of contacts.

[The VAEAI Koorie Education Calendar](#) includes year-round ideas on activities and significant dates that can be adapted to the early childhood context.

### Koorie Heritage Trust

Find out about Koorie history, culture and art through the [Koorie Heritage Trust](#).

### Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Located within the Melbourne Museum, the [Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre](#) provides an excellent, interactive overview of the history of Koorie people in Victoria.

### The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL)

[VACL is the peak body](#) for Aboriginal language revitalisation across Victoria.

### Kinya Lerrk

[Kinya Lerrk](#) is an Aboriginal owned and operated local business based in Preston, where you can purchase Acknowledgement of Country plaques, room plaques, stationery, books, puzzles, homewares and more.