

# BLAK BOOK OF THE MONTH

## EARLY CHILDHOOD & FOUNDATION

'**Blak Book of the Month**' is an initiative to support the inclusion of First Nations children's books regularly throughout the year in all Australian early learning centres and primary classrooms. This initiative can be lead by individual educators or taken up across the whole centre or school. For a whole school approach, download the other 'Blak Book of the Month' resources for:

- [Year 1 and 2](#)
- [Year 3 and 4](#)
- [Year 5 and 6](#)

The following books have been carefully selected to cover a range of First Nations themes/content such as identity, Country, sustainability, bush tucker, the Stolen Generations, wellbeing, art and music; as well as link to all subject areas in the [Australian Curriculum](#) as well as the [Early Years Learning Framework](#). Books have also been carefully chosen for particular months to align with significant dates within each month, e.g. the book *My Lost Mob* was chosen for the month of May to coincide with National Sorry Day.



You can purchase the following books from [Riley Callie Resources](#), an Aboriginal owned and run educational online shop/business. Books can be purchased individually or Riley Callie Resources and I have partnered to create a '**Blak Book of the Month - Early Childhood and Foundation Book Pack**' for your convenience. To purchase the book pack click [here](#). Use the discount code **NGANGAANHA** for 5% off!



Several of the books listed are also read online by First Nations storytellers on the [Story Box Library](#) (SBL) website and app. If you have a subscription to SBL, click on the SBL icon next to each book to take you there.

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# BLAK BOOK OF THE MONTH

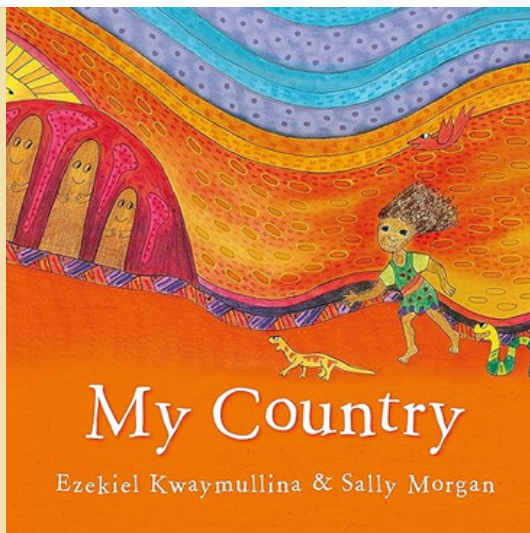
## EARLY CHILDHOOD & FOUNDATION

### JANUARY

#### MY COUNTRY

**Ezekiel Kwaymullina & Sally Morgan**

Start the year by learning about Country from an a First Nations point of view. Explain who Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are and emphasise the important relationship First Nations people had with the land, waterways and skies in order to survive here for thousands of years before houses, cars and shops existed! Discuss each of the different elements of Country included in this beautiful book - stars, earth, wind, rivers, trees, animals, etc. Explore Country where your early learning centre or school is located. Discuss what it is that your students love the most about Country.



### FEBRUARY

#### THIS IS ME! Sally Morgan

*This is Me!* is a bright and upbeat book that you can use to explore the concepts of identity, individuality, self-love and confidence! Explore what it is that your students love about themselves and provide them with lots of other reasons why they are amazing! Your students might not know a lot about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people yet, so use this book begin a conversation about all the different cultures that now live in Australia, and who the First People of Australia are.



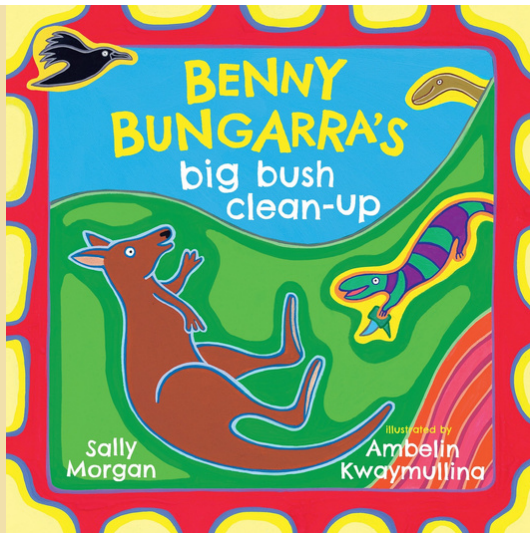
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### MARCH

#### **BENNY BUNGARRA'S BIG BUSH CLEAN UP** **Sally Morgan & Ambelin Kwaymullina**

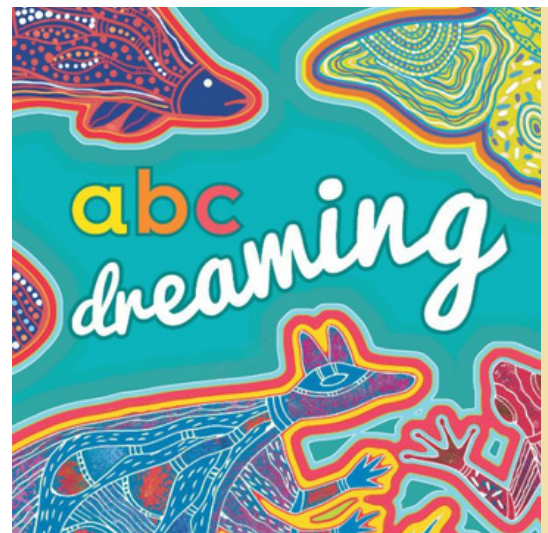
Clean Up Australia Day occurs annually on the first Sunday in March. Read the book *Benny Bungarra's Big Bush Clean Up* and discuss ways we can care for Country. Organise for students to clean up or tidy an indoor or outdoor area of your early learning centre or school. Learn about the three Rs - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Discuss ways your education setting can embed the three Rs in your everyday routines.



### APRIL

#### **ABC DREAMING** **Warren Brim**

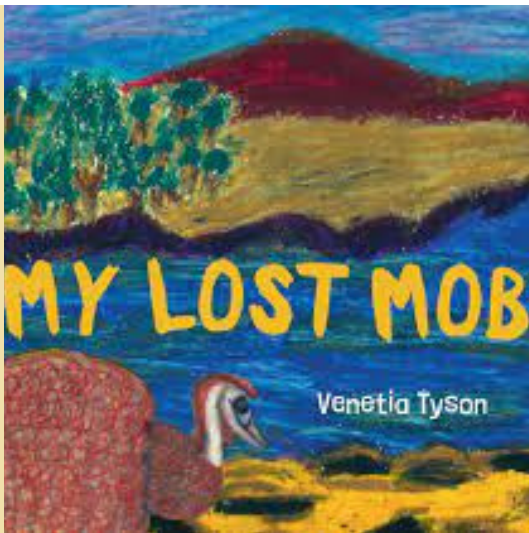
Use this book to explore the letters of the alphabet as well as native Australian plants and animals such as an ant, barramundi, cassowary, quondong fruit and zamia palm.





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### MAY

#### MY LOST MOB Venetia Tyson

Read the book *My Lost Mob* to explore the concept of belonging by following an emu who has lost his mob. With the help of some native Australian animals and tracks visible in the ground, he is finally reunited with the other emus. This book can be used to draw parallels between the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were removed from their families in [the Stolen Generations](#). Read this book for [National Sorry Day](#) on the 26th of May.

### JUNE

#### ONCE THERE WAS A BOY Dub Leffler

*Once there was a Boy* is a beautiful story about friendship, trust and forgiveness that can be explored in the lead up to [National Reconciliation Week](#) (27 May-3 June). A young boy lives an uncomplicated life on an island when suddenly a young girl appears on the island. While the two initially get along, the young girl breaks the trust of the young boy by looking under his bed (something he asked her not to do). The book shares an important message - Reconciliation is not always easy but the end results are worth the effort.



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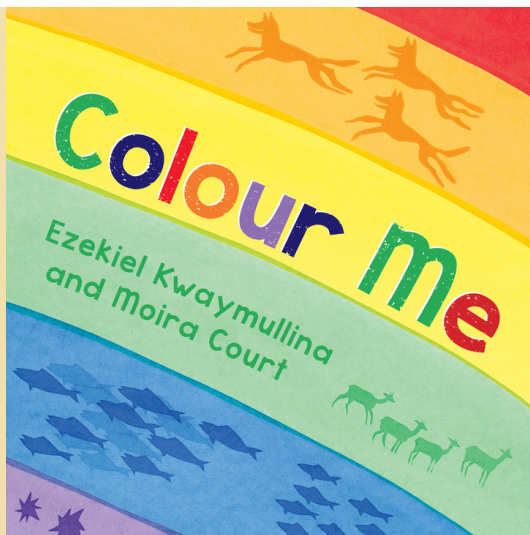
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### JULY

#### COLOUR ME

**Ezekiel Kwaymullina & Moira Court**

Use the book *Colour Me* to identify different colours and native Australian animals. The rainbow is also a metaphor for diversity and uniqueness - another wonderful topic to explore!

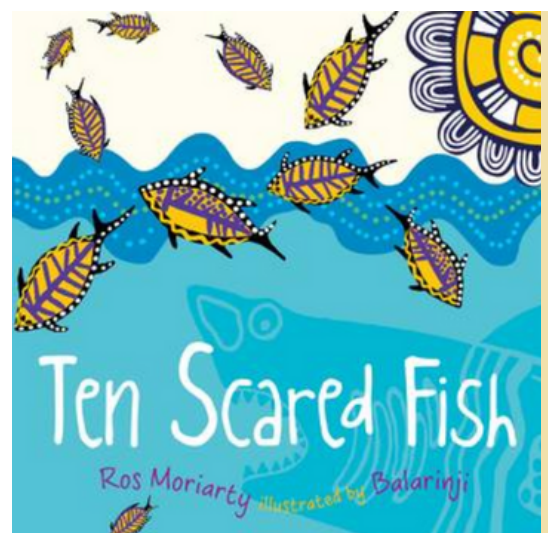


### AUGUST

#### TEN SCARED FISH

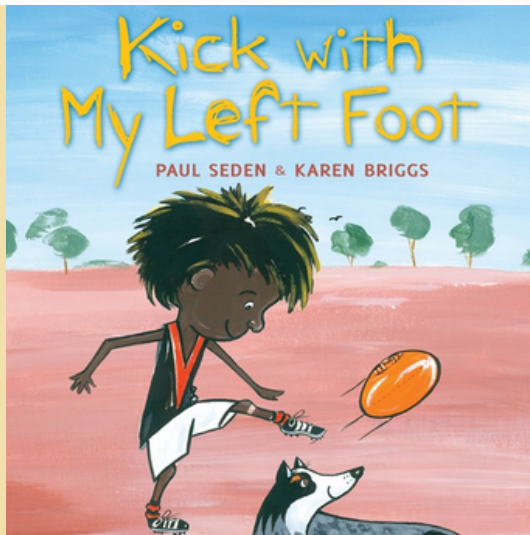
**Ros Moriarty & Balarinji Design Studio**

*Ten Scared Fish* is an animal counting book with a difference. Following the river to the sea, the reader meets and counts the animals until finally ten little fish meet a big scary shark! Bold illustrations and a delightfully playful text help readers familiarise themselves with prepositions as well as animals and numbers.



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## SEPTEMBER

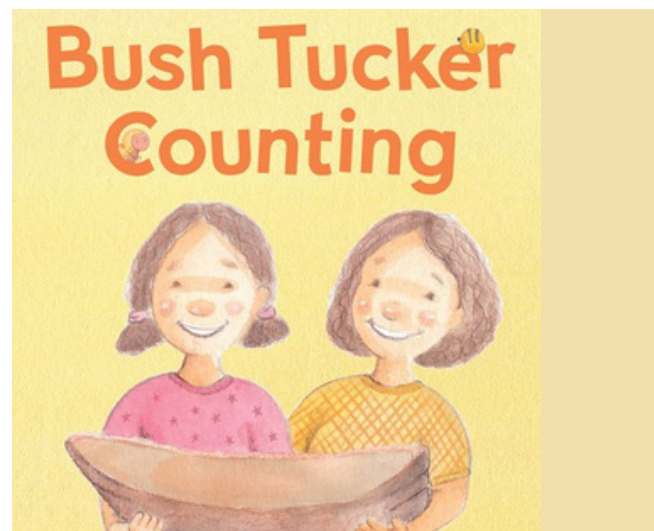
### KICK WITH MY LEFT FOOT Paul Seden & Karen Briggs

September is an exciting month for anyone who follows the Australian Football League (AFL) or National Rugby League (NRL). Most (if not all) of the final rounds occur in September. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have excelled in many different sports - but especially in AFL and NRL. The [NSW Koori Rugby League Knockout Carnival](#) is one of the biggest First Nations gatherings in Australia! Read *Kick with my Left Foot* with students, learn left from right, and practise kicking skills outside!

## OCTOBER

### BUSH TUCKER COUNTING Maureen Glover & Gabrielle Fry

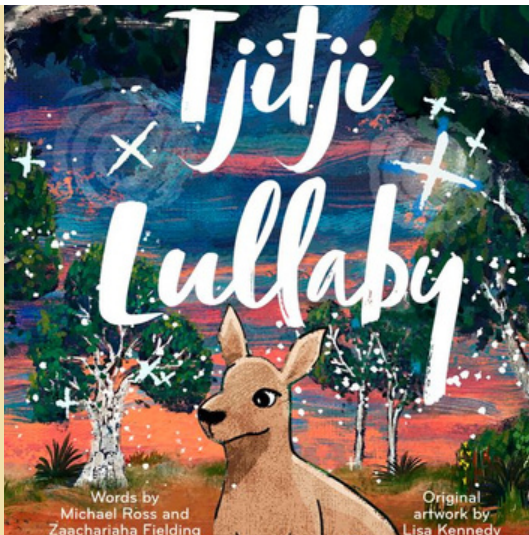
It's now the middle of spring! Celebrate by learning about native Australian plants and bush foods with the book *Bush Tucker Counting*. Food availability and seasonal knowledge go hand-in-hand. Use this as an opportunity to learn about the traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander seasons where your early learning service or school is located. Establish a native garden with the guidance of your local First Nations community/Elders. Use [Ochre Dough](#) to create play dough versions of the bush foods in the book and make a small play dough [coolamon](#) to hold the bush foods too!





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## NOVEMBER

### TJITJI

**Michael Ross, Zaachariaha Ross & Lisa Kennedy**

Support student wellbeing with music by learning and singing the lyrics to the special lullaby *Tjitji*. Tjitji is a word in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara languages meaning 'child'. This lullaby celebrates positive and loving relationships between children and their parents or carers, and encourages having quiet time and going sleep. Watch the lullaby animation on ABC Kids [here](#) and then use the book to explore the lyrics and accompanying visuals. Sing this lullaby to unwind before nap time, or after a busy recess or lunch.

## DECEMBER

### WARU & DHANGAL VISIT THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

#### Connecting the Dots through Culture

Let's learn about the Torres Strait Islands with this wonderful book! Locate the Torres Strait Islands on a map and pretend to go on a class trip there! Pack your imaginary suitcases, board your imaginary plane (and boat - depending on what island you are going to) and pretend to do any of the everyday activities people in the Torres Strait do. Learn the Torres Strait Islander song [Taba Naba](#) which is about going out to the edge of the reef to fish!

