

## Integration of Indigenous Culture

### February Focus: Respect for the Environment, Animals and Each Other

#### What is Indigenous Pedagogy?

*It is a holistic practice of teaching that incorporates Indigenous worldviews throughout all components of our learning environments, including how we interact with children and families, how we develop our daily routines, how we set up our physical spaces, and how we intentionally engage children in learning opportunities. Educators are viewed as active learners and researchers alongside children, and role model looking and listening as part of the learning process.*

*Some world views we will introduce as we proceed throughout our integration of Indigenous culture include the respect for the environment, animals, and each other, the interconnectedness of all living things, oral traditions, land-based teaching, the appreciation for the wisdom provided by Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Cultural Advisors, and spiritual wellbeing.*



#### Developing Respect for the Environment, Animals, and Each Other

##### Activities:

##### **1. Go on a nature walk, ready to take photos with your classroom tablet:**

Prior to leaving, engage your children in a discussion about nature and the environment. Ask children to look for items in nature and animals throughout the walk that they find interesting, beautiful, or that tell a story. Remind children that everything tells a story. Be prepared to take a photo. When you arrive back at the centre, print out the photos, and document children's responses to the following questions:



- What story does this photo tell us?
- Describe what you like about this photo?
- Discuss the movement of animals and their attributes that allow for movement, challenging children to think about how animals can fly, swim, or run!

**2. Purchase a potted branched tree or plant for your indoor or outdoor learning environment:**

Use the tree to display items of recognition for children within your program, showcasing artwork, photos, kindness tokens, and any other special accomplishments. Have a special focus on recognizing children when they are caring for their environment.

Engage the children in taking care of the tree and detailing its attributes while using its strength to carry these special items.

**3. Create a 'Transportation' Journey display:**

Set out a variety of natural loose parts, and discuss the story of where these parts came from. For instance, if it is a leaf or a twig, challenge children to think of which tree they came from and what it once looked like. Guide children to create a vehicle out of these loose parts.

**Book Suggestion:**

"Stand like a Cedar" written by Nicola I Campbell and illustrated by Carrielyn Victor

The story details a beautiful journey of discovery through the wilderness. Learn the names of animals in the Nl̓eʔkepmxcín or Halq'emeylem languages as well as the teachings they have for us. Experience a celebration of sustainability and connection to the land through lyrical storytelling and Carrielyn Victor's breathtaking art in this children's illustrated book.

