



Boomerang Painting

First Nations Incursions' Boomerang Painting program aligns with the Australian Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF V2.0) and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF). The analysis draws on program detail and national/state curriculum principles.

Program Highlights – Boomerang Painting

- Children learn about symbolic storytelling through **Aboriginal symbols**, discovering how art can convey meaning without words.
 - Each child **paints their own wooden boomerang** using brushes, **ochre coloured paints**, and **symbol stamps**.
 - The experience includes materials to explain **traditional paint-making methods**, emphasising cultural context.
 - Designed for small group settings (4–6 children per table; up to 25 children overall), promoting hands-on learning and nonverbal communication skills.
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Alignment with EYLF V2.0

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives (Principle)

The program embeds Indigenous cultural perspectives by using authentic stories, symbols, and practices—allowing children to experience Aboriginal art forms in a respectful and meaningful way, aligned with EYLF's emphasis on cultural inclusion.

2. Learning Outcomes

- **Outcome 1 – Children have a strong sense of identity**
Through engagement with symbols that tell stories, children develop understanding of Aboriginal ways of knowing and communicating - a foundation for cultural identity and pride.
- **Outcome 2 – Children are connected with and contribute to their world**
By exploring storytelling through symbols, children connect with First Peoples' cultural practices and narratives.

- **Outcome 4 – Children are confident and involved learners**
Painting, stamp use, and symbol selection encourage experimentation, creativity, and deep engagement - key aspects of confident and curious learning.
- **Outcome 5 – Children are effective communicators**
Visual storytelling via symbols fosters multimodal communication beyond words - inviting children to express ideas through art.

3. Principles & Practices

- **Cultural responsiveness:** Authentic educators and materials honour First Nations cultural heritage.
- **Play-based and intentional learning:** Hands-on experiences encourage exploration, while materials and demonstrations give intentional context.

Alignment with VEYLDF

- **Cultural Identity & Community:** Supporting belonging through storytelling and connection to Country.
- **Communication:** Using art as a visual language enhances narrative skills and symbolic expression.
- **Learning & Wellbeing:** Engaging, sensory experiences in small groups foster confidence and emotional resonance with culture.

Summary Table

Program Feature	EYLF/VEYLDF Alignment
Boomerang painting with authentic symbols	Embeds Indigenous perspectives and symbol literacy; builds connection to culture
Use of symbol stamps and explanations of traditional paint	Supports creative, hands-on, and culturally responsive learning

Storytelling through visual art	Enhances sense of identity, narrative skills, and non-verbal communication
Group-sized hands-on sessions	Offers inclusive, engaging pedagogical structure and emotional safety
First Nations-led facilitation	Strengthens cultural safety, authenticity, and reconciliation-informed teaching

Final Reflection

Boomerang Painting is a rich, immersive artistic experience that draws children into **Aboriginal storytelling traditions through symbols and craft**. It supports key EYLF outcomes - especially identity (Outcome 1), connection (Outcome 2), confident learning (Outcome 4), and communication (Outcome 5) - while resonating with VEYLDF's emphasis on cultural identity, narrative skills, and emotional wellbeing. The hands-on, culturally grounded nature of the activity makes it powerful both educationally and culturally.