

**We acknowledge Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander People as the
Traditional Owners of the land and pay
our respects to Elders past and present**

Key Koorie terms used

Boorai – Child or baby

Deadly – Awesome or great

Yarn – Talk or have a conversation

Mob – Aboriginal people
(generally or belonging to a specific Nation/Country)

Elder – A respected, senior Aboriginal person
who holds cultural knowledge

1

Warm and Gentle

smalltalk big yarns

Get close

Stay calm

Use a soft voice

Praise your
Boorai

Smile

Stop and
think before
you respond

Give hugs

Warm and Gentle



Mum sees Boorai riding his bike without a helmet.

Mum: Look at you riding your bike, looks like fun.

Boorai: Yeah!



Mum: Come here please Bub, you need to put your helmet on.

Boorai: I don't want to.



Mum: Come on, you need to wear a helmet so let's put it on please.

Boorai: Okay then.



Mum: Thanks, you're looking deadly!

Give your
Boorai your
full attention

Try to read
your Boorai's
signals

Describe what
your Boorai
is doing

Respond with
an action

2
Tuning in



Nan: Look at your face! Is that mandarin a bit sour?

Boorai: Yeah it's sour but still yummy.



Nan: Aw I'm glad you like it.

Say and do
something about
what your Boorai
is doing

Focus on what your
Boorai is interested in

Encourage
your Boorai
to do more

Following your child's lead



Dad: What are you playing with?
Are you driving the truck?
Boorai picks up truck and makes sounds.



Dad: What a cool truck!



Boorai touches the wheels and makes sounds.
Dad: You like the wheels don't you?



Boorai touches the wheels trying to spin them around.
Dad: Let's spin the wheels together.

Yarn with excitement
with your Boorai

Give choices, start
conversations and
take turns

Yarn together
anywhere,
anytime

Describe, label
and ask

Speak clearly,
exaggerate and
repeat



VACCA
Connected by culture

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE AGENCY



Parenting Research Centre
raising children well



Listening and Talking more



Dad: We've got lots of fruit here don't we?
What are you going to eat?



Boorai: Watermelon!
Dad: You like watermelon don't you? It's very yummy.
Boorai: I love watermelon!

Notice if
your Boorai is
interested

Teach by
responding to
what your Boorai
does and says

Teach by
showing

Teach by naming
and describing

Teachable moments



1

Boorai: Let's play with these blocks.

Nan: Ok good idea.



2

Boorai: Look at this one!

Nan: Wow yeah! What colour is that block?

Boorai: Black!

Nan: And what about the spots?

Boorai: White.



3

Nan: That's a great stack you're making.
What shape is that block?

Boorai: Umm... It's a rainbow shape.

Nan: Ah yes it is, isn't it? You are too clever Nan!



4

Nan: How many blocks have you got there?

Boorai: One, two, three, four!

Nan: Great counting!

Learning with family and Mob

Connection to culture helps our Boorais grow up deadly and strong

Learning from Elders

Learning on Country

Yarning up about culture

Learning through culture



Dad: Here let Daddy help you put on your possum skin. It's nice and soft isn't it?

Boorai: Yeah.



Dad: You look cosy! Possum skins keep our Mob nice and warm don't they?

Boorai: It's soft.

Read what
your Boorai likes

Read and
re-read

Reading is fun

Never too
young to read

Read Aboriginal books
and books in language

Get your
Boorai
involved

7 Reading



Read together.

Let your Boorai turn the pages.

Let your Boorai lead.

It's ok to skip pages.

Ask questions (what, why, when, where).



You don't have to stick to the story.

Talk about the story.

Let your Boorai tell the story or finish off a sentence.

Yarn about
the pictures

Ask
questions

Pointing and
naming

Read the
story

Extra yarning
about the
book

Respond to
what your Boorai
says about
the book

Reading with your child



1

Mum reads out loud.

Mum: What animal do you think that is?



2

Boorai: I think it's a possum!

Mum: That's right Dort, it's a funny little possum isn't it?
What's the possum doing?

Watch screens together

smalltalk  big yarns

Time to
relax

TV and screens
– only watch sometimes

No ads

Yarn about the
game or show

Watch screens together



TV/screen time

- Limit the time your Boorai watches screens.

TV/screen watching

- Choose age-appropriate shows and games.
- Limit the number of ads they see.
- Talk about what they're seeing and hearing.

Home environment and TV/screens

- Think about playing music instead.

Inside

Outside

In language

Words are everywhere

