



NAIDOC WEEK



6 - 13 July
2025

NAIDOC Week 2025: Celebrating Indigenous Culture



NAIDOC Week is a special time each year when all Australians are encouraged to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In 2025, NAIDOC Week will be held from 6–13 July, with the inspiring theme: **“The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy.”**

This theme shines a spotlight on the incredible contributions of young Indigenous leaders who are carrying on cultural traditions, driving positive change, and shaping Australia’s future while staying connected to the wisdom of Elders and past generations.

Why NAIDOC Week is Important for Everyone

NAIDOC Week is not just for Indigenous Australians it’s an opportunity for everyone to learn, understand, and celebrate Australia’s rich and diverse First Nations cultures.

For children, learning about Indigenous cultures encourages:

- Respect and Inclusion: Understanding and valuing differences helps children grow into kind, inclusive individuals.
- Cultural Awareness: Early exposure to Indigenous stories, art, and language nurtures a sense of curiosity and appreciation.
- Connection to Country: Many Indigenous cultures have a strong spiritual and practical connection to the land.

Teaching this helps children develop respect for nature.

By including Indigenous perspectives in early learning, families and educators help lay the foundation for reconciliation and build bridges of understanding for future generations.

Ways Families Can Participate in NAIDOC Week

Here are some fun, meaningful, and easy ways to involve children in NAIDOC Week celebrations:

1. Explore Indigenous Stories and Books

Choose picture books or stories that share Indigenous legends, Dreamtime tales, or real-life achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Storytelling is an important cultural tradition and helps children connect emotionally and intellectually.

Examples:

- Welcome to Country by Aunty Joy Murphy and Lisa Kennedy
- Baby Business by Jasmine Seymour
- My Culture and Me by Gregg Dreise

Ask your local library or school for recommendations.

2. Celebrate Indigenous Art and Music

Art and music are important expressions of culture.

- Try Dot Painting: Provide children with cotton buds or small brushes to create patterns on paper or stones.
- Natural Art: Use leaves, bark, or sand to explore traditional patterns.
- Listen and Dance: Play Indigenous music or songs by contemporary Indigenous artists like Jessica Mauboy, Baker Boy, or Archie Roach.

Talk to children about the meanings behind patterns, colours, and songs.

3. Attend Community Events

Many local councils and cultural centres will hold NAIDOC events with dancing, storytelling, workshops, and exhibitions. These family-friendly events give children a hands-on way to learn and celebrate. Check your council's website or local library noticeboard for free events.

4. Learn Basic Indigenous Words

Introduce your child to simple words from your local Indigenous language group, such as:

- “Hello” or “Goodbye”
- Names of animals, plants, or weather

This helps children see the richness and importance of Indigenous languages. You can often find word lists on local cultural websites or through community centres.

5. Discuss Respect and Cultural Awareness

Have open conversations with your child about:

- Why it's important to respect different cultures
- How Indigenous peoples have lived on and cared for this land for over 65,000 years
- The importance of listening to and learning from Indigenous communities today

These conversations encourage empathy and appreciation.

Child-Friendly NAIDOC Craft and Play Ideas for Educators

Here are some fun and educational ways to engage children in NAIDOC Week:

1. Dot Painting Craft

- What you need: Cotton buds, acrylic paint (earthy colours like brown, yellow, white, red), cardboard or rocks.
- What to do: Show children how to make patterns using small dots. Encourage them to create simple animals, patterns, or shapes.
- Learning focus: Understanding that dot painting is a traditional art style used to tell stories.



2. Handprint Art “Our Hands Together”

- What you need: Large sheet of paper, washable paint.
- What to do: Each child dips their hands in different colours and presses them onto the paper to form a big “community hands” artwork.
- Learning focus: Symbolizes unity and community, reflecting NAIDOC’s spirit of togetherness.



3. Natural Collage: “Land and Sea”

- What you need: Leaves, bark, sand, shells, glue, cardboard.
- What to do: Create a collage representing Country landscapes, animals, or rivers using natural materials.
- Learning focus: Builds respect for the land and understanding of Indigenous connection to Country.

4. NAIDOC Storytime and Puppet Play

- What you need: Indigenous storybooks or Dreamtime stories, paper puppets (kids can draw and cut characters).
- What to do: Read a Dreamtime story, then encourage children to retell it using puppets or acting.
- Learning focus: Oral storytelling traditions and respecting cultural stories.

5. Indigenous Language Word Hunt

- What you need: Print or write simple local Indigenous words (like animals or greetings) on cards and hide them around the play area.
- What to do: Children find the cards, then match them to pictures or practise saying the words.
- Learning focus: Introduces language in a fun, interactive way.

6. Music and Dance Celebration

- What you need: Indigenous music (traditional or contemporary).
- What to do: Play music and encourage children to dance freely or create simple clapping rhythms.
- Learning focus: Celebrates joy and rhythm in Indigenous culture.

Supporting Indigenous Leadership and Legacy

The 2025 theme, “The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy,” highlights the inspiring role young Indigenous Australians play in keeping culture alive while leading their communities forward. By celebrating these leaders, families can help children understand that respecting culture is about both learning from the past and looking to the future. Even small actions like reading a story, learning a word in language, or visiting a cultural event help children grow into respectful, informed, and compassionate citizens.

