

Resource reviews

by Angela Owens

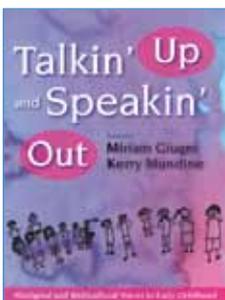
Talkin' up and speakin' out: Aboriginal and multicultural voices in early childhood

Talkin' up and speakin' out: Aboriginal and multicultural voices in early childhood, edited by Miriam Giugni and Kerry Mundine. The book offers a collection of 'yarns, stories and narratives' from a diverse range of early childhood educators and early childhood activists. The contributors share their experiences, struggles and successes in tackling social justice issues in the realm of early childhood settings.

Each chapter of the book (or 'constellation' as they are referred to) is a collection of stories detailing the experiences, actions and reflections of early childhood educators and activists in their everyday practice. Each story is told from a unique perspective, and they offer a mix of practical ideas and strategies, historical information, critical reflection and, at times, touching and quite personal accounts of individuals' experiences. Many of the stories also include a set of questions to guide the reader's critical reflection of their own practices.

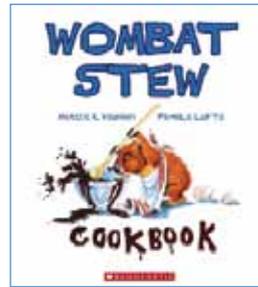
As the editors state, the term 'culture' in this book describes more than language and ethnicity; it also refers to 'sexuality, gender, family, 'race', language, ethnicity, abilities, spirituality religion and many other facets or our identities and the places in which we live' (Giugni & Mundine, 2010, p.4).

This inspirational and thought provoking book will assist all early and middle childhood educators, regardless of their qualifications or level of experience, to become more proactive in addressing social justice issues with children, ■



Giugni, M., & Mundine, K. (2010). *Talkin' up and speakin' out: Aboriginal and multicultural voices in early childhood*. Castle Hill, NSW: Pademelon Press.

Wombat Stew Cookbook



The *Wombat Stew Cookbook*, written by Marcia K. Vaughn and illustrated by Pamela Lofts, is a wonderful accompaniment to the classic Australian children's book, *Wombat Stew*.

The cook book includes recipes for main dishes, salads and vegetables, bread, drinks and desserts, most of which will require minimal adult assistance, depending on individual children's skills.

Simple dishes, such as 'Numbat nachos' and 'Mopoke milkshake', are straightforward enough for preschool children and older toddlers to manage with adult supervision. Older children may enjoy the challenge of baking 'Bandicoot ginger biscuits' and 'Crocodile soy and sesame drumsticks'. While the recipes are designed to maximise children's independence, there is a strong focus on safety, with reminders throughout the book for children to ask an adult for help with tasks such as preheating the oven and using a frying pan.

The introductory pages include some general cooking, safety and hygiene directions for children, instructions on measuring ingredients and an explanation of common cooking terms, such as 'blend' and 'peel'.

Educators working with older children in school age care settings will find this book useful for assisting children to become responsible for some simple meal preparation activities and learning basic cooking skills. Educators working with younger children can use this delightfully illustrated book to introduce children to new foods and to simple cooking experiences ■

Vaughn, M. K., & Lofts, P. (1989). *Wombat Stew Cookbook*. Lindfield, NSW: Scholastica Australia.