

# CONNECT AND REFLECT

## Reflecting on Child and Family: Embracing Indigenous and Inclusive Perspectives





# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land on which we live is the unceded unsundered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg Peoples who have lived on and in relationship with this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to be present on this land.

We, as a community of educators, commit to ongoing learning and understanding of Truth and unwavering action toward Reconciliation.





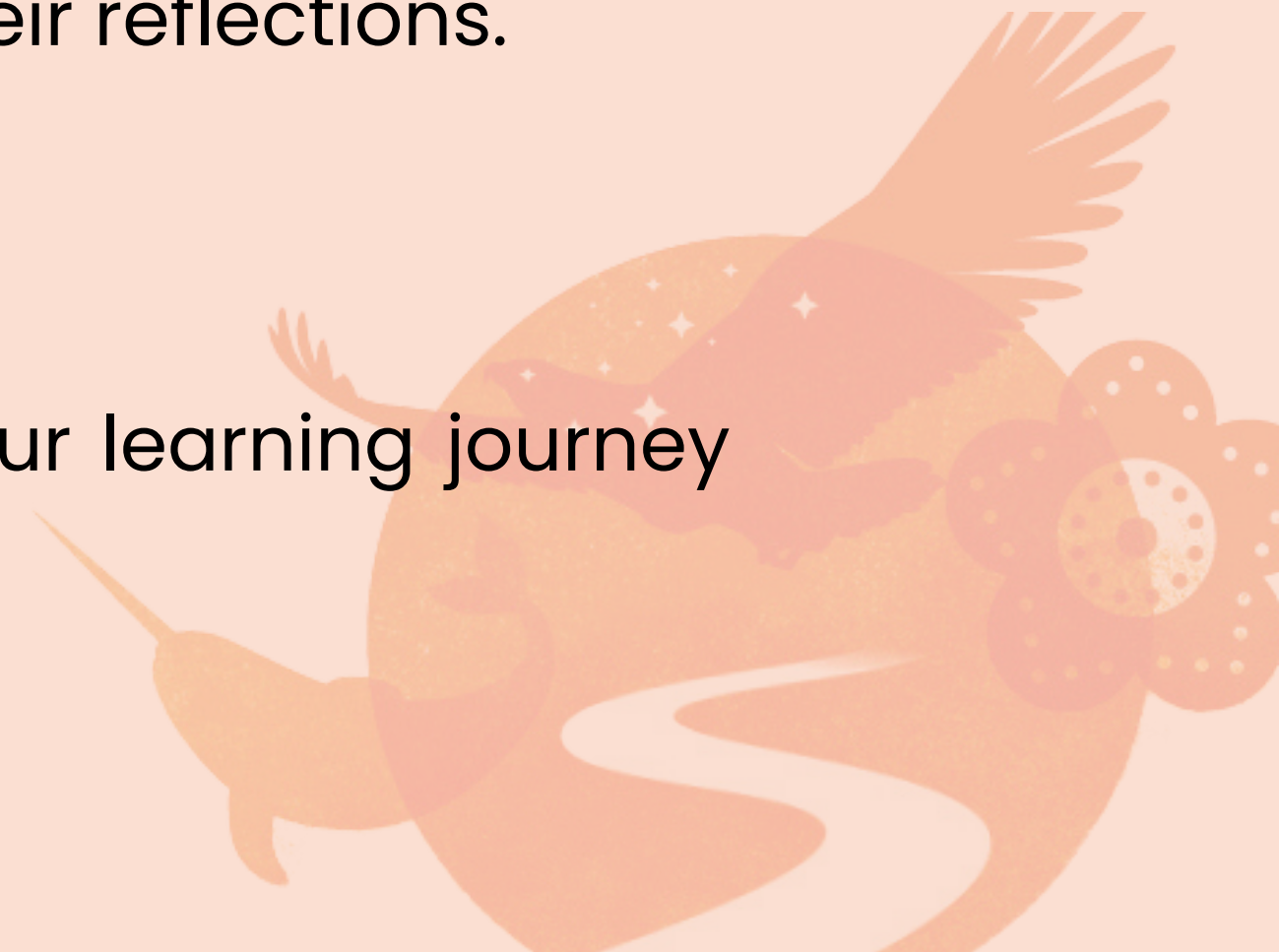
## Three Ways to Engage

Here are some ideas of how to use this Connect and Reflect guide to continue the learning with your own teams.

- Select one page from pages 4-6 to review with your team and use the accompanying reflective question to facilitate discussions.
- Watch this 7 minute video with your team and invite their reflections.

 [Phyllis Webstad - Orange Shirt Day](#)

- Explore the Additional Resources page to continue your learning journey and discover resources to support your programs.



# HONOURING NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, is observed on September 30th each year and is dedicated to honoring the survivors of the residential school system, the children who never made it home, their families, and their communities. This day also serves as an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on the tragic legacy of residential schools and the ongoing impact on Indigenous peoples. The day is rooted in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's mandate to acknowledge and address the harms caused by the residential school system. It is a time to recognize the resilience and strength of Indigenous communities, celebrate their cultures and contributions, and commit to ongoing efforts towards reconciliation and justice.



## Reflective question:

What is your knowledge of Indigenous history in Canada?



# THE IMAGE OF THE CHILD

While First Nations people, Métis, and Inuit have distinct cultures and languages, they also share common beliefs, values and histories. Indigenous cultures often view children as sacred and integral to the community's well-being and future. This perspective is deeply rooted in the belief that every child carries unique gifts and potential that contribute to the collective good of the community.



## Reflective question:

How does this compare to your image of the child? How does it align or differ with *How Does Learning Happen?*



- **Sacredness of the Child:** Children are seen as sacred, born with their own unique gifts and a learning spirit. This sacred view recognizes their inherent value and importance. They are viewed as capable and contributing members of community.
- **Connection to Ancestors and Culture:** Indigenous teachings often emphasize that children are connected to their ancestors and cultural heritage. They are seen as carriers of traditions, stories, and wisdom. Indigenous ways of knowing emphasize inherited wisdom and generational knowledge sharing.
- **Holistic Development:** The development of the child is viewed as interconnected with spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental well-being. This holistic approach recognizes the importance of nurturing every aspect of the child's growth through relationships with others, themselves, and the land.

## Final reflections



What are some gentle and respectful ways can you introduce Indigenous history and culture to children and families in your programs?

What is your comfort level with this? Who can support you and your team?





# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*There are many fantastic resources to support your learning and incorporation of Indigenous perspectives in your programs. Here are a few inspired by our time together in our Community of Practice.*

## Activity and Material Resources

[National Art Centre Indigenous Words Colouring pages](#)

[Indigenous Educational Materials and Supplies](#)

## Articles

[The Child is Capable: Anishnaabe Pedagogy of Land and Community.](#)

## Books

[With Orange in our Hearts](#)

[GoodMinds First Nations, Metis, Inuit Books](#)

## Local Resources

[First Nations Child and Family Caring Society.](#)

## Training Opportunities

[The Four Seasons of Indigenous Learning](#)

[Nurturing Childhoods through Indigenous Ways o](#)

## Truth and Reconciliation

[National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

## Videos

[Phyllis Webstad Orange Shirt Day.](#)

## Websites

[Indigenous Ways of Knowing](#)

[Come Walk in my Moccasins](#)