

ARPDC Resources Site: ELAL Curriculum

Title: *Incorporating Indigenous Ways of Knowing in the New K-6 ELAL Curriculum*

Description: Learn where and how to easily incorporate Indigenous Ways of Knowing in the new K-6 English Language Arts and Literature curriculum.

Key Points of the Resource:

1. Important to remember to include Indigenous Ways of Knowing regularly in lessons, so that it is understood to be apart of Canadian life and not a separate area of study.
2. There are some common holistic practices you can employ Indigenous Ways of Knowing in the classroom:
 - a. The Sharing Circle
 - b. Storytelling
 - c. The Medicine Wheel – can be used to show connectedness in many areas. Can be a visual representation for older students to summarize their research and for younger ones to organize their ideas
 - d. The 7 Grandfather Teachings – character education through journaling and writing, story development and poetry, etc.
 - e. Land-Based Learning
3. Inquiry-Based Learning & Open-Ended Questions – may be used for any subject
 - a. Ask open-ended questions without conclusive answers, children must discover their own answer. This way they can develop their own internal values and learn how to problem solve.
4. Storytelling in Language Arts
 - a. Storytelling is integral to Indigenous Languages and culture, it is the means of passing along generational knowledge, teaching values, and spending time together.
5. How can you honour Indigenous Storytelling?
 - a. Using authentic texts
 - b. Be aware that different stories have different purposes, and let students know about the different purposes these stories can have
 - c. Copyright and Protocol – always ask for permission before using any cultural materials or practices
 - d. Avoid referring to Indigenous stories as legends or myths, it is preferable to use the term story or traditional story