

Aboriginal Dreamtime stories are a learning pathway to build our cultural competencies by increasing our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal Australia. Creation or dreamtime stories often explain how the country, animals and people came to be as they are. They tell us when things were made, why they were made and how they were made. Creation stories are children's stories with moral tones that reinforce correct behaviour.

Aboriginal Dreaming Story of Waatji Pulyeri
The Little Blue Wren
Original narrated story by Jimmy Rankine, Ngarrinderi

I'll tell ya story about Waatji Pulyeri, the blue wren.

A long time ago all the birds were happy, flyin' around and getting along together. Then one day the Muldrie, Mr Magpie said "Look at my feathers, they're really pretty, don't you think?" The Blue Herron popped his head up and said "who cares for your feathers, look at my legs, they're so long and beautiful". Other birds joined in then showin' us their beaks, their tail feathers and their feet.

Soon, a big argument broke out. Who had the prettiest eyes or the strongest legs or shiniest feathers or the sweetest song? All the birds were yelling and screamin', the argument grown louder and louder until they woke up Mr Owl. He looked down on them and yelled "KEEP QUIET!" The birds stopped arguing, they never heard the wise old owl raise his voice before. "What's all this arguing about?" asked Mr Owl. "Kungari, the Swan has the strongest legs", The Blue Herron, "but mine are stronger" he said. "Are not" said Kungari the swan. So they all started arguing again and once more the Old Owl he called for quiet. "What's the point of arguing about how the Great Spirit made you" Laughed Old Owl "You are all different anyway, why don't you have a competition instead?" "A competition?" said all the birds "What sort of competition?" The Ol bird rolled his eyes back and side "Ahh, sometimes it's hard being old and wise. What's something that you can all do?" he asked. The birds scratched their beaks and ruffled their feathers wondering what is that, that they could all do? After a while the old owl flapped his wings at them and said "What are you a bunch of bird brains? Fly! You can all fly". The birds agreed that flying was something they could all do. So they lined up and took turns to see who could fly the highest. Mulderi the Magpie took off first. Next was Kungari the Swan who flew very high.

Waatji Pulyeri, The Little Blue Wren was watchin', thinkin' all these birds are doin' hard work. But I'm smart, I gotta plan. He snuck behind the bush near to where the birds were taking off and waited. Ol Walduri The Eagle and Ngori The Pelican were left. Eagle flew higher and higher catchin' an air pocket that took em' up into the sky so that all the birds were askin' "Where is he?" When Waljurri back, all the birds were cheerin'. Ngori said "Wait till I get up there, I'll show you" He took off flappin' his wings until he caught an air pocket too. Now remember little Waatji Pulyeri, the little blue wren, when Old Ngori the Pelican took off Waatji Pulyeri snuck in under Cloury Ngori Pelican's wings, catchin' a free ride, he was still holdin' on when old Ngori the Pelican looked round and reckoned he was higher than Waldurri the eagle had flown. "I'm the winner" said Ngori the Pelican. Just when little Waatji Pulyeri, The little Blue Wren flew out from underneath Ngori Pelican's wing and started up into the air. Higher than Old Ngori the Pelican had gone. "No you're not" said Waatji Pulyeri, the little blue wren "I'm the highest, I'm the winner" And he flew down with Old Ngori and the Pelican chasin' him callin' out "Cheat! You had a free ride!" Little Waatiji Pulyeri the Little Blue Wren landed and said he was the winner and all the other birds started cheerin'. Then, Ngori the Pelican landed and told them what Waatiji Pulyeri, the blue wren, had done. Walleri the Eagle who had keen eyes said he saw Waatiji Pulyeri dart out from underneath Ngori, the pelican's wing in the sky. All the birds were angry with Waatiji Pulyeri called him a cheat. They chased him away peckin' him teasin' him, said they didn't want him round, so little Waatji Pulyeri went and hid in the bush and that's where Waatiji Pulyeri lives to this day. He only flies up above the bush to look around and darts back again. Because that is his punishment. He cannot now fly higher than the Waatiji bushes.

Educators Reflection on Morals of story...

The Moral of the Dreamtime story is the acceptance of one's uniqueness. That individuality is part of your Identity you have been created uniquely. Comparing yourself to others is detrimental to confidence and success in learning. This is relevant to Educators when reflecting on their Principles and reviewing their teaching strategies in order to create an antis bias teaching environment, one that creates an air of equity.

Educators strive to teach young children within their care that they are all special and unique despite what society may deem as strengths or attractive characteristics. In relation to the Early Years Learning Framework Educators will be reflecting on this Dreaming Story to assist them to teach the children to achieve a strong sense of Identity. To be connected with and contribute to their world and to begin to teach children about Aboriginal Culture and the History of Indigenous and Non Indigenous Australia .