

ELCC ADVISORS' BOOK CLUB

Our Book Recommendation:

Celebrating Métis Culture through Song Volume 1
Métis ALIVE Children's Songbook
by Felice Gladue

Synopsis:

Felice Gladue, a descendant of the Métis community of St. Laurent, Manitoba, is a person of Métis heritage and has Métis ancestry. She is the Métis author of MetisALIVE Children's Songbook: Volume 1, her debut songbook, which includes 10 original, simple-to-sing songs that celebrate Métis culture, history, and lifestyle. Her songbook also includes QR codes that readers can scan to listen to audio recordings of the songs she created. Métis Minute pages within her songbook provide historical context, knowledge, and stories related to the song themes. The sharing guide pages provide positive teacher tips, extension activities, Cree/Michif language, and connections to early learning concepts. Spiral-bound for easy display of song lyrics during sing-alongs with children.

Age Recommendation:

Infant/Toddler/Preschool/Grades K



Where to purchase:



Find on GoodMinds here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Why We Love It

This songbook makes Métis culture, history, music, and language accessible to young children through simple songs, stories, and hands-on learning activities. The combination of audio recordings, "Métis Minute" pages, language resources, and educator activities makes it a practical resource for bringing Métis content into early learning environments in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

Métis Connection

The MétisALIVE Children's Songbook: Volume 1 is a lively tribute to Métis culture, blending music, language, and storytelling to showcase the essence of Métis identity. Created by a Métis author, the songbook shares lessons through ten original songs that highlight the rich history, way of life, and traditions of the Métis people. Each "Métis Minute" page enhances children's understanding by linking songs to cultural knowledge. Through rhythm, voice, and playful learning, the songbook honours the enduring Métis tradition of passing down culture through music, providing educators and children with an authentic, joyful entry into Métis ways of knowing and being.

Extension Activities

While introducing the Métis Sash Song on page 8, discuss how to show respect when handling the Métis Sash. For example, "The sash is important to Métis people. We touch it softly, use it the right way we learned, and keep it safe." Felice has shared this story for others to use. Please credit Felice for the idea: "A long time ago, Métis voyageurs travelled in large birch bark canoes. (Show the children the painting Shooting the Rapids (Hopkins, 1879) to help them picture the voyageurs working hard and carrying heavy loads.) Explain why the sash was important: "Métis people worked very hard and carried heavy loads. They wore a special sash around their waist. This sash helped keep their clothing tight, keeping them warm. The sash was also a tool. Voyageurs used it as a rope, a belt, and to carry items. Today, Métis people still wear the sash to celebrate our culture." Sing the song with the children.



Extension Activities

Colour and Pattern Sash Exploration

Invite children to examine their sashes closely to explore colour and pattern. Ask simple, open-ended questions; "What colours do you see?", "Is your sash long or short?", "Does your sash look the same as your friend's, or different?", "How many colours can you count?", Let the children lay sashes on the floor to compare size and patterns.

Language Extension

Download the Michif-Fransè app below. Type the words from the Metis Sash song below into the app. You can hear each word in all 3 languages, English, French, or Michif-Fransè, pronounced properly.

English	French	Michif-Fransè
belt/sash	ceinture	sintsur fléché
red	rouge	rouj
blue	bleu	bleu
yellow	jaune	jonn
green	vert	vèr



Android



iOS

We feel that these activities fit into "How Does Learning Happen?" through.....

Belonging: Children engage with Métis culture and history, cultivating respect for traditions. Sharing Felice's story and acknowledging her contributions enhances community and appreciation.

Well-Being: Respectfully handling the sash promotes care, responsibility, and a gentle touch. Examining how voyageurs used sashes highlights their resilience and physical well-being.

Engagement: Colour and pattern exploration encourage children to observe details.

Additional Resources and Links

Rapids picture



Felice's MetisAlive Facebook page:

