

ELCC ADVISORS' BOOK CLUB

Our Book Recommendation:

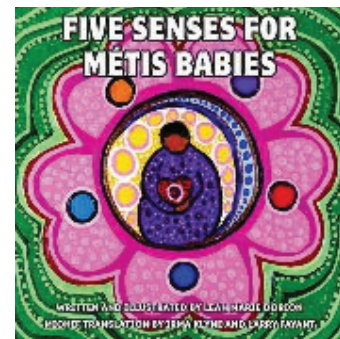
Five Senses for Métis Babies
by Leah Marie Dorion

Synopsis:

Five Senses for Métis Babies by Leah Marie Dorion shows that Métis culture is experienced through the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. Each sense connects babies to their identity: tasting berries, hearing fiddle music, seeing beadwork, smelling bannock, and touching nature. As caregivers share genuine, age-appropriate Métis culture, language, music, and heritage, young children learn who they are from an early age. It's never too early to introduce meaningful cultural experiences to Métis babies so they develop a strong sense of Métis identity as they grow.

Age Recommendation:

Infant/Toddler/Preschool/Grade K



Where to purchase:



Find on GoodMinds here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Why We Love It

Five Senses for Métis Babies book offers something truly special; it gently guides babies to discover their identity from an early age and highlights that culture is experienced through everyday moments using sensory activities. Babies don't just learn about their identity through lessons; they experience it through touch, taste, hearing, seeing, and smelling. Leah Dorion, the author, encourages children to explore the world with their whole bodies, making learning both natural and fun. It's rich in culture, helping children grow up understanding that their heritage is woven into everyday life. Caregivers share these sensory moments with babies, showing that identity is passed down through family love and connections.

Métis Connection

The Five Senses for Métis Babies storybook emphasizes Métis cultural ties to fiddle music, berries, beading, and the infinity symbol. These elements are essential for nurturing cultural bonds in early childhood because a sense of identity and belonging starts to develop at that age. Educators can support babies by sharing cultural practices, songs, and stories, helping them remain connected to their community. The bonds formed in infancy with family, land, and traditions are viewed as lifelong.





Extension Activity

Finger Tracing Métis Symbols: Use Leah Marie Dorion's Five Senses for Métis Babies book pages as inspiration. Trace the heart-shaped rattle and pretend to "play" it like a Métis elder. Find and trace the infinity violin sign on various pages throughout Leah's storybook and pretend to play fiddle music. Trace strawberries and talk about taste, youth, and growth. Trace the five-petaled rose's petals and connect them to rose imagery. On the final page, draw the infinity sign and the heart-shaped flower, and discuss their meanings. This activity reinforces Métis symbolism through touch, sight, and movement.



Language Extensions

In Five Senses for Métis Babies by Leah Marie Dorion, the author emphasizes simple words that can be translated into English, French, or Michif-Fransè. Introduce the Métis language by teaching and practicing the words below in the chart with children. If you work with older children, consider adding more vocabulary to enhance their learning of the Michif-Fransè language. You can take photos of children in your early learning environment, focusing on ears, eyes, and mouth (keywords from the book listed in the chart below), and add the Michif-Fransè words to match each image. Then print the photos and hang them for children to see and interact with. Keywords are sourced from Trilingual PDFs created by the MNO K-12 and Language teams.

Here is a chart of some key words from the storybook to complete this language activity: ➔

English	French	Michif-Fransè
baby	bébé	bebé
eyes	yeux	zyeu
nose	nez	né

Additional Resources and Links

Trilingual Links for PDFs

Leah Dorions Website



We feel that this activity fits into "How Does Learning Happen?" through....

Belonging: Children connect with Métis identity and symbolism, fostering cultural pride and community as they develop a sense of belonging.

Well-Being: Tracing and movement activities improve fine motor skills, sensory exploration, and emotional connections to heritage.

Engagement: Pretend play with instruments and tracing symbols sparks imagination, creativity, and active participation.

Expression: Children communicate through movement, art, and discussing meanings (e.g., strawberries for growth, infinity for continuity).



The Michif-Fransè app is officially live!



Features include:

- Word of the Day
- Common phrases & vocabulary
- Audio recording for correct pronunciation



Questions? Contact: mlisupport@metisnation.org

Android



Canada



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iOS

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