

ELCC ADVISORS' BOOK CLUB

Our Book Recommendation:

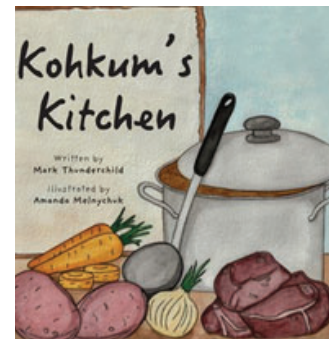
Kohkum's Kitchen
by Mark Thunderchild

Synopsis:

In Kohkum's kitchen, the family is large, the stove is warm, and the stew is oh so good. But just what makes this special stew so delicious? Is it Kohkum's recipes and knowledge, or Mushum's traditionally hunted moose meat? The grandchildren all believe they know the answer. But how will they decide who's right? They'd better have another bowl or two before they come to any big decisions. Kohkum's Kitchen is the first book in a series celebrating Indigenous culture and the traditional knowledge that was nearly lost. Perfect for any child who wants to learn more about how modern Indigenous peoples live.

Age Recommendation:

Preschool - Grade 4



Where to purchase:



Find on GoodMinds here:

[CLICK HERE](#)



Why We Love It



Ideal for younger children. Repetitive and straightforward storyline. Excellent visuals. A wonderful book sharing Indigenous culture! Engaging story, characters, and illustrations. This book is a fun and easy way to see how similar we all are in our hearts.-- Publisher.

Métis Connection

Kohkum's Kitchen centres family, traditional harvesting, and the sharing of food across generations. These themes can provide an opportunity to talk with children about the importance of harvesting and food traditions in many Indigenous communities. For Métis families in Ontario, moose harvesting also connects to the history of R. v. Powley, the landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision that confirmed a constitutionally protected Métis right to hunt for food in the Sault Ste. Marie area. Together, the story and the history of Powley can help introduce conversations about family, harvesting, food, community, and the ongoing importance of Métis rights. The moose stew in Kohkum's Kitchen is more than just a recipe. This stew can help us talk about harvesting, food, and why the Powley decision is important to Métis rights in Ontario



[Learn More about Powley Day](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

Language Extensions

Learn the words for 'Grandmother' and 'Grandfather' in the Ontario Michif language. In the storybook *Kohkum's Kitchen*, the children talk about their "Kohkum's" kitchen. They also mention "Mushum". In Cree and other Indigenous communities, "Kohkum" is a respectful and loving way to refer to a Grandmother and "Mushum" is the word for Grandfather. Teach and practise with the children in your early learning environment how to say 'Grandmother' and 'Grandfather' in the Michif Fransè language.

English	French	Michif-Fransè
Grandmother	Grand-Maman	Memér / Mémér / Granmér
Grandfather	Grand-Papa	Pepér / Pépér / Granpér

Extension Activities

1) Dramatic Play: "Kohkum's Kitchen."

Set up a play kitchen with pots, ladles, pretend vegetables, and a "moose stew" pot (using brown felt or paper pieces for meat and toy vegetables).

Allow the children take turns being Kohkum, Mushum, or grandchildren, acting out cooking and storytelling. Encourage them to "add ingredients" while sharing what makes the stew special: family, harvesting, or love.

2) Sensory Play: Moose Stew Soup Station

Set up a sensory bin with water, ladles, toy vegetables, and safe natural materials like pinecones and leaves. Children "cook" their own stew, exploring textures and smells. Educators can gently explain: "This stew reminds us of Métis families who can hunt moose because of Powley Day."

3) Moose Prints & Stew Bowls

Teach the children in your early learning setting to say 'moose' in Michif-Fransè. The Michif-Fransè word for moose is arnyal. create moose footprints using sponges or cut potatoes. Allow children to stamp moose prints with paint using sponges or cut potatoes to create realistic moose tracks. They can also decorate paper bowls with drawings of family, food, and nature. Display the bowls as a Michif-Fransè "arnyal wall."

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



Activity 1: Belonging: Children feel part of a cultural story, promoting identity and community.

Activity 2: Well-Being: Sensory exploration encourages emotional regulation, enhances fine motor skills, and promotes relaxation.

Activity 3: Expression: Children use both visual art and a new language (Michif-Fransè) to express their ideas.

Additional Resources and Links

Here is a link to learn how to say the word 'moose' in Michif Fransè:

[CLICK HERE](#)



The
Michif-Fransè
app



Android



iOS

