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Acknowledgment of Country

We, the English Language Learning for Indigenous Children (ELLIC) project, acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians and the first storytellers of the lands on which we live and work.

We honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' continuous connection to Country, waters, skies and communities, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories, traditions, education practices and living cultures.

Wooy, I'm Max.

I live with my Mum and Dad, my two big brothers, my Aunty and my new baby sister.

I'm a saltwater boy – I live in Pormpuraaw. Maybe you can find it on a map. It's up north.

I speak Kuuk Thaayorre language. I speak a little bit of Wik Mungkan language with my Nana and Kuuk Thaayorre language with my Mum and Dad. My Aunty also speaks some Yumplatok language.

My Nana is from Aurukun. My Pop is from Pormpuraaw.

I am going to tell you about my first day at preschool.



Today was the day, it was finally here.
The very first day of my preschool year.



My teacher's name is Mr Vin.
'Hi Max,' he smiled, as I walked on in.



I looked around, there was lots to do! I cut with scissors and pasted with glue.



I played with water.
I played with sand.
I played with paint.
'Look at my hand!'



I made a friend, Nellie's her name. We got dressed up, and played a game.



We built a tower,
oh so high.
One more block ...
to reach the sky!



We ate our snack under a tree.
Biscuits and cheese and grapes for me.



We put on hats and played outside.
We ran and climbed and slid down the slide.



We packed up the toys.

We sat on the mat.

We all sang some songs,

and had a good chat.



Then Mr Vin said,
'I hope you had fun,
but it's home time now,
so goodbye everyone.'



I saw Aunty waving.
'Wooy Max,' she said.
She gave me a smile,
and patted my head.



I held Aunty's hand as we walked away. And I told her about my wonderful day.







Samantha Campbell grew up in the Northern Territory and lives in Alice Springs. She is descended from the Dagoman people from Katherine and as a child lived in remote communities across the Top End. Her first book, *Alfred's War*, written by Rachel Bin Salleh, was shortlisted for the Premier's Literary Awards and the Speech Pathology Awards.

Other books she has illustrated include *Aunty's Wedding* by Miranda Tapsell and Joshua Tyler, *Brother Moon* by Maree McCarthy, *Yoelu luwa tara luwa waypa* by Dave mangenner Gough, and *My Deadly Boots* by Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler.



