

# We Belong to the Drum

## The 2024 CLEL Bell Award Book for SING

by Sandra Lamouche, illustrated by Azby Whitecalf

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***We Belong to the Drum* is a story about an indigenous child finding comfort through music. Inspired by the author's son's experience—and her family's love of powwow music and dance—Indigenous educator and champion hoop dancer Sandra Lamouche shares this uplifting true story of the transformative effects of culturally safe and inclusive early childhood education. It models singing between child and caregiver beautifully.**

### Activity Ideas for *We Belong to the Drum*:

- Create your own drum out of household materials. Choose an empty container, like an oatmeal tub or recycled can. Take a balloon and snip the end off with scissors. Fit the large part of the balloon over your container and secure with a rubber band. Then use your hands, popsicle sticks, or chopsticks to drum a beat. Don't have a balloon? Use a lid, paper, or wax paper. Experiment with different materials to see how it changes the drum's sound.
- With your homemade or a real drum, listen to your child's favorite recorded song. Beat along with the rhythm. Beat the drum for each word or syllable so your child can hear the fragments of language. This works great with simple songs you can sing together, like BINGO or Wheels on the Bus.
- Share stories from your own culture or experiences about music and rhythm. Oral storytelling is a beautiful way to share culture with children and invites them to participate in telling stories with you and with music.

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The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit <http://www.clel.org> and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.



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