

At Callington Kindergarten, we aim to acknowledge, respect and connect with the natural surrounds where we play, learn and grow together on Peramangk Country. We pay our respects to Peramangk Elders past and present, and respectfully recognise the neighbouring and connected Kaurana, Meru and Ngarrindjeri Countries across this region.



WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

Kindness, Curiosity and Connection: children's questions, ideas and care for community leading the way

This term, we are noticing how children show kindness, curiosity and connection through play, conversations, problem-solving, caring for nature and contributing to our kindy community.

TERM 2 UPDATE- 2026

It has been wonderful continuing to get to know the children, families and Callington community.

As a small kindergarten, we have a special opportunity to listen closely to children's ideas, work alongside families, and build learning from what children are noticing and wondering. As families, you are also our Governing Council, so your voice and ideas are an important part of how we care for the site, make decisions and keep improving together.

Thank you for your ongoing warmth, support and ideas.

Ali and the Callington Kindergarten team

OUR KINDNESS JOURNEY

This term, we continue our wondering:

How can we contribute to our community?

How do we notice kindness in ourselves and in others?

Children are exploring kindness through everyday moments – helping, listening, taking turns, playing games, sharing ideas, caring for others and noticing when someone needs support.

These small moments are helping children practise care, inclusion, patience, cooperation and belonging. Come and see/build onto our kindness inquiries on the kindy wall.



OUR WELCOME GATE: CARING FOR NATURE, COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY



The children have begun wondering: How do plants help us?

This has already led to conversations about food, apples, grapes, red plants and whether all red plants are safe to eat.

We have also been grateful to receive two trees donated by a local community member.

If families have ideas about where we could source suitable pots or planters locally, please let us know.



Building from our philosophy work, we are also creating a welcoming arch of native plants and natural materials near our gate. This will help us celebrate caring for nature, respecting Country, thinking about reconciliation and welcoming our community.

Families are invited to begin collecting natural materials from next week, such as leaves, seed pods, bark, grasses, small fallen branches, flowers and interesting natural textures.

Please only collect fallen or gently gathered natural materials.

Please avoid pulling plants from gardens, damaging living plants, or collecting from protected areas.

(Actually in all my years I would have to say the Callington children are some of the most respectful and kind to nature I have learnt alongside – all creatures are considered kindy – the ants, the spiders.....even the pigeons! – well done families for instilling this care!)

These materials will help us create a kind and welcoming native plant sculpture with the children.

MOBILE JUNK MAN DAY – TUESDAY 26 MAY

Children will explore loose parts, recycled materials, creativity, construction and problem-solving. Families are warmly invited to stay for the beginning of the morning if you are able.

The website image/video team will also be there until approximately 10:30am. If you are comfortable being included in website images or video, written consent will be required on the day. I have found your child's media permissions forms. We will double check with you that you are still happy with this level of permission for the website. An example of the type of website is <https://poonindiekgn.sa.edu.au/> and <https://largsnthkgn.sa.edu.au/>

It's always good to have a refresh on the website, it is also timely in preparation for assessment and rating visit that is likely to occur this year.

We will also use some of the natural materials families collect to continue creating our welcoming gate arch.

OUR FLOOR BOOK: MAKING LEARNING VISIBLE

Our floor book helps us capture children's thinking, questions, conversations, drawings, photographs and developing theories.

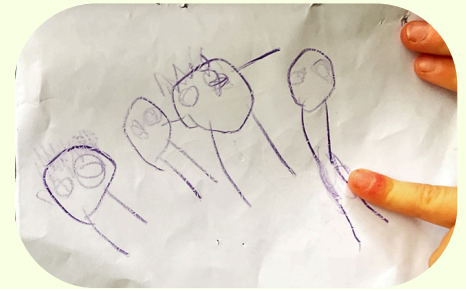
It is not just a record of what children have done. It helps us notice what children are wondering, how their ideas are changing and where the learning might go next.

Families are warmly invited to read, add to, or ask questions in our floor book.

You might like to add:

- something your child has said at home
- a question for the children
- a family idea or connection
- something you notice in the learning

Your voice helps us understand children more deeply.



CARE AND SAFETY ALONG WITH PREPARING FOR ASSESSMENT AND RATING

This year, we are continuing our ongoing quality improvement journey. This includes preparing ready for Assessment and Rating through the Education Standards Board, which is likely to occur this year. Assessment and Rating looks at all areas of the National Quality Standard, including children's learning, safety, relationships, partnerships with families, leadership, staffing and the environment. Your feedback, ideas and support are an important part of our improvement journey.

CAN YOU HELP US CARE FOR OUR KINDY?

We have started to attend to some hazards from last year's KidSafe report – at this stage they are only “quick fixes” – and would LOVE your input as to ways to improve – even pointing out the cobwebs and cleaning feedback. At this stage Ali does a deep clean on a Thursday and the team do clean ups at the end of each day. But we may miss things – so please let us know your noticing's and hazards. It's all part of our ongoing work to keep children safe, supported and well-supervised. We would value ideas or practical help from families who may have skills, knowledge or local connections.

Some possible jobs or suggestions include:

- Perspex or fence safety ideas (instead of the temporary natural screening recently put up)
- cubby repairs, fixing, painting or strengthening
- securing the mud kitchen to the back wall (will need tools!)
- pots or planters for the donated trees (maybe 2x½ wine barrels if you know where we can source)
- local places to source materials – Ali has no idea!
- small painting, cleaning (have you seen the windows) or repair jobs

We also understand families are busy, so there is no pressure. Thursday afternoons, when there is no kindy, or Fridays may work well for some practical jobs. Or possibly a holiday working bee?

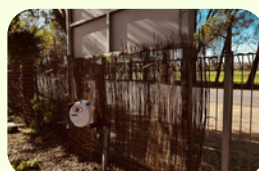
You can share ideas by speaking with Ali or the team, email the kindy, writing in the floor book etc.



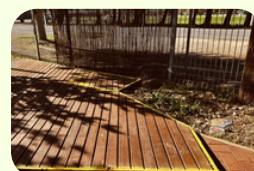
Cover to keep out debris



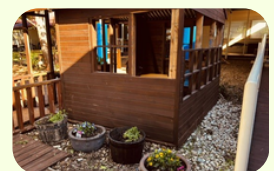
Need mud kitchen attached



Need: safer screen to mitigate climbing risk



Yellow paint to alert trip hazard



Need: Cubby makeover

OUT AND ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITY

We have been spending more time out and about in Callington.

The children loved visiting the local ruins near the old smelter, and we plan to return. There was so much curiosity, noticing and wondering about this part of Callington's history and landscape.

To support safety on local walks, we are planning to purchase high-vis vests so children can be seen more clearly.

We are also hoping to visit the nature garden behind the kindy. Does anyone know who manages this space?

We would love to seek permission, understand the rules and learn how we can care for the garden respectfully.



We walked safely to and from the smelter ruins



Do you know anyone who cares for the nature garden next to kindy?



EDUCATOR INQUIRY

As educators, we are continuing to reflect on how we notice your children as capable learners.

With support from Lee Munn, Early Childhood Leader, we have been thinking about our interactions, relationships, environments, children's agency and how open-ended materials support deeper learning.

We are intentionally practising naming the specific strengths we see in children, such as persistence, kindness, curiosity, courage, cooperation and problem-solving, instead of saying "good job/girl/boy" we are trying to name what children are doing and learning. For example:

"I noticed you kept trying with that tricky puzzle."

"You helped your friend. That was thoughtful."

Let us know if you notice!

SUPPORTING CHILDREN THROUGH CHANGE

Callington Kindergarten has gone through lots of change (staffing, environment, philosophy...) which may bring up many emotions for children and families. Children may have big feelings, friendship challenges, toileting accidents, injuries or worries about change.

Please know we are here to support children and families with care and kindness.

Another change is the transition to school for some of us. Mrs McLean, the Reception teacher, has begun visiting kindy for short visits and vice versa.

These visits help children become familiar with her and build confidence around the people and spaces they may connect with at school. Formal transition visits are planned for Weeks 8, 9 and 10.

END OF KINDY CELEBRATION

Term 2 is the final term of kindy for six children who will soon be moving to school. Their last kindy day will be Wednesday 1 July. We would love family input about how we might mark this moment in a way that feels meaningful for Callington Kindergarten.

We could hold a small afternoon celebration, with families invited to stay after kindy until around 4:00pm.

Some ideas might include:

- afternoon tea
- sharing the floor book
- a small song or story
- certificates or a simple acknowledgement
- picnic-style gathering
- something warm and meaningful

Please share your ideas with Ali or the kindy team.



SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

We have attached some gentle support information from trusted parenting sources, including Parenting SA and the Raising Children Network.

Please take what feels useful for your family and leave what does not fit right now.

If you are wondering about something or would like help finding support, please come and talk with us.

We will try and support where we can and help think it through with you.

Callington Kindergarten

Phone: 08 8538 5123

Mobile: 0488 310 842

Email: alison.hennessy2@schools.sa.edu.au

or dl.6560.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au