Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

### What do I want my child to learn?

* Express an opinion in matters that affect them and show concern for others.
* Become aware of connections, similarities and differences between people.
* Listen to others’ ideas and respect different ways of being and doing.
* Become aware of ways in which people are included or excluded from physical and social environments.
* Develop the ability to recognise unfairness and bias and the capacity to act with compassion and kindness.
* Use play to investigate, role-model and explore new ideas.
* Demonstrate an increasing knowledge of, and respect for the environment.
* Show growing appreciation and care for land, people, plants and animals.
* Explore relationships with living and non-living things and observe, notice and respond to change.
* Develop an awareness of the impact we have on natural environments.

### How can I support their progress?

* Model language that your child can use to express ideas, negotiate roles and collaborate to achieve goals. It's also a great time to remind your child of what they can do to help at home. Negotiate chores such as tidying up a shared living space, setting the table for mealtimes or helping to hang small washing items.
* Allow your child to investigate ideas, complex concepts and ethical issues that are relevant to their lives. Avoid making assumptions or using language that might blame others. Talk to your child about issues like illness and how anyone can get sick regardless of race or ethnicity.
* Demonstrate positive responses to diversity and ethical issues. Give your child information that is truthful and talk to them about how some information they may see on the TV or the internet may not be true or accurate. Talk to your child about how there are researchers and doctors learning as much as they can, as quickly as they can, about different illnesses all the time to keep everyone safe.
* Engage in interactions that promote respect for diversity. Remember that discrimination hurts everyone and can create fear or anger towards others. Role model empathy and support to those who are unwell, as this will help your child to do the same.
* While you are at home with your child, explore your family culture, background and traditions. Tell stories which were shared with you as a child. Look through photos which have been taken during special occasions or cultural celebrations and talk with your child about the significance of those occasions.
* Notice and listen carefully to your child’s concerns and discuss their perspectives on issues of inclusion and exclusion and what they perceive as fair and unfair behaviour. Try to remain calm and reassuring as your child will pick up cues from the conversations you have with them and with others. Your child will react to what you say and how you say it. Make time to talk with them and listen to and respond to their questions.
* Encourage outdoor play time during the day or visit your local park or community garden.
* Embed sustainability in daily routines and practices. Open windows and turn off lights when not needed, add food scraps to compost, reuse items like cereal boxes and egg cartons for construction or creative art.

### How will I know if my child is learning?

* They participate collaboratively in everyday routines and experiences such as:
  + gardening
  + reusing empty boxes or milk bottles for play experiences
  + cooking with you
  + setting up and cleaning up after mealtimes
  + helping with other simple chores around the house.
* They confidently contribute to daily decisions, for example:
  + what to have for dinner
  + which game they would like to play
  + what time they should eat lunch.
* They ask questions about your family’s cultural background, values and traditions.
* They enjoy listening to the stories you share about your family and your traditions.
* They ask questions about things that they are unsure of or concerning them and feel happy with your response.

Tips for learning at home

* Try to follow your child’s lead as much as possible and allow your child choice about which play experiences and activities, they want to participate in.
* Give you child as much or as little time as they need for each learning experience.
* Provide your child with uninterrupted play time where possible.
* Support your child when they ask or show signs that they need help with their task.
* Offer praise and encouragement for any learning attempts, even if they don’t get it quite right.
* Engage in discussion with your child about their play and what they are learning.
* It doesn’t matter if the suggested experiences don’t go according to plan, allow your child to lead the play and learning.

### Recycled materials experience

* Spend time daily collecting a variety of materials which may be reused. Talk to your child about sorting and reusing items and allocate a space at home to gather materials daily.

##### **Materials**

* Recycled materials such as tissue boxes, hand towel rolls, egg cartons and milk bottle lids, empty cereal boxes, magazines, catalogues
* Glue
* Tape
* Scissors

##### **What to do**

* Set up a space where your child can explore materials and be creative. Allow them plenty of time to work on their creations and the opportunity to revisit the play space throughout the day.

##### **Consider**

* How does your child work independently to repurpose recycled materials? Do they have any other ideas about what may be reused in your home?

**Ideas to extend the learning**

* Talk to your child about sorting and recycling waste in your home. Do they know what goes into the different bin for council pick-up?
* Encourage your child to return materials and equipment to their allocated location once they are finished playing in this space.