

Kindy Early Years Learning Framework Overview – NBEEC – Little Footprints

EYLF Overview			NOTES
The 5 Learning Outcomes are designed to capture the integrated and complex learning and development of all children across the birth to 5 age range. The learning experiences throughout <i>Little Footprints</i> are grounded in play-based, inquiry-driven and place-responsive pedagogies that support children’s holistic learning, wellbeing and connection to Country. The program values children as capable, curious and active participants in their own learning and provides opportunities for children to explore, investigate, create, communicate and develop relationships through meaningful experiences in natural environments. The <i>Little Footprints</i> program draws strongly on: • Place-based pedagogy • Play-based learning • Inquiry learning • Cultural responsiveness • Sustainability education • Child agency and co-construction of learning • Sensory and experiential learning • Intergenerational and community partnerships The program is developed in collaboration with local cultural knowledge holders to support authentic and respectful engagement with Country, culture and language. Educators intentionally scaffold children’s observations, language, questioning, creativity and environmental understandings through modelling, storytelling, shared inquiry and responsive interactions. Learning experiences are continuously adapted in response to children’s interests, questions, discoveries and ways of engaging with the environment. Educators observe children’s participation, interactions, communication, curiosity and wellbeing throughout the day to inform ongoing reflection and future learning opportunities. The Learning Outcomes are: • Children have a strong sense of identity • Children are connected with and contribute to their world • Children have a strong sense of wellbeing • Children are confident and involved learners • Children are effective communicators			
Learning Outcomes		Alignment to Little Footprints.	
Outcome 1	Children have a strong sense of identity	• Children feel safe, secure and supported in unfamiliar outdoor learning environments • Children develop confidence, resilience and independence through exploration and nature-based play • Children develop a sense of belonging through group identity, shared rituals and connection to Country • Children build positive relationships with peers, educators, Elders and the natural world • Children develop increasing autonomy through making choices, solving problems and contributing ideas	
Outcome 2	Children are connected with and contribute to their world	• Children develop a sense of connectedness to groups and communities and an understanding of their reciprocal rights and responsibilities as active and informed citizens • Children respond to diversity with respect • Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment	
Outcome 4	Children are confident and involved learners	• Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity • Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating • Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another • Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials	

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Outcome 5	Children are effective communicators	• Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes • Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts • Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media • Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work	
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Ongoing Reflection and Continuity of Learning

The *Little Footprints* program values responsive planning, critical reflection and continuity of learning. Educators collaborate with children, families, teachers, Elders and community members to reflect on learning experiences and support ongoing connections to nature, culture and sustainability beyond the excursion experience.

Children are encouraged to continue their learning through:

- Nature play and outdoor exploration
- Caring for local environments
- Storytelling and creative expression
- Observing local wildlife and ecosystems
- Building connections to place and community
- Continuing conversations about caring for Country and sustainability