



## ALDGATE KINDERGARTEN

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Government of South Australia

Department for Education

# Welcome to Term 1

## Our first learning focus for 2024 - Building a sense of belonging

Welcome, families, to our Aldgate kindergarten learning community in 2024. Our curriculum focus for the first few weeks at kindergarten has been to settle the children into the daily routine, build a trusting, respectful connection with each child and help them establish friendships with other children. To do this, our educators join in play and activities with the children, enjoy sharing conversations and help each child learn what they need to be part of each daily routine event. From the first day, our play resources and kindergarten layout has been carefully selected to match the children's interests (from your suggestions in the parent surveys you gave us) and bridge similarities between home and kindergarten to help support a sense of familiarity. Following your suggestions, we have had cars, dinosaurs, drawing/art and craft, gardening tools, train sets, books on space and other topics. We also included some resources to support our children's interests who are continuing their Kindy journey and some activities which we know are generally calming for kindergarten aged children. We also focus carefully on how we interact with the children to enable a trusting relationship to grow where the children feel secure, heard and confident. When children feel secure and respected, they are better able to remain calm and then we get the best learning outcomes.



## Learning to get along...a social focus from week 3

Kindergartens naturally provide a social setting where children can learn how to relate to others and build a sense of belonging to a group. Our learning focus has followed on from settling in to how our actions affect others at kindergarten. This is a broad enough focus which can support learning how to share, take fair turns, speak respectfully to others and teaching some particular spoken lines to support positive relationships. This includes saying 'can I have a turn after you?' when we see someone with a resource that we want. Then we need to wait our turn. We would love to hear if you have heard this line being said at home!



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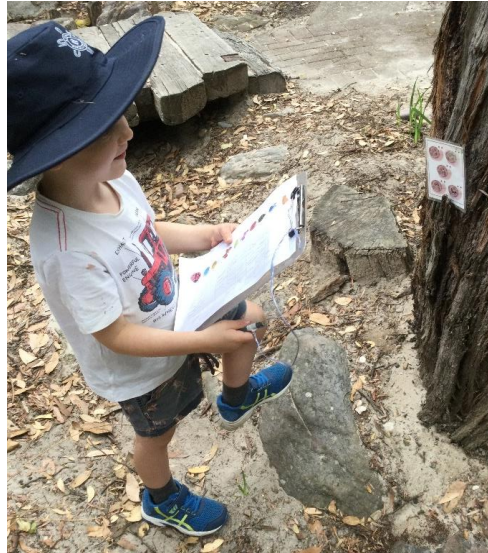
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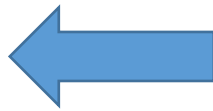
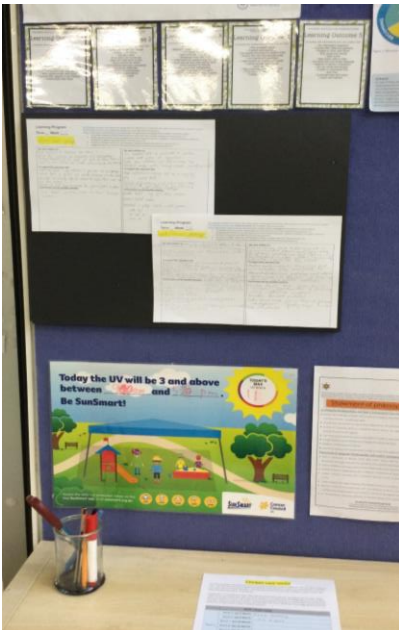
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### 1, 2, 3 count with me...

We have also had a learning focus on numeracy, which you might have seen a lot of activities which contain numbers and counting, such as games inside, bug card hunts and hopscotch outside and lots of songs or games at group times which incorporate numeracy themes.



### A little about our programming and planning for children's learning



Our learning program generally changes every two weeks, (although we will adapt as needed) and is always focused on the children's needs and interests. Every activity you see set up in our kindergarten will be set up for a specific learning purpose. The learning program is always on display near the sign in sheets, so you can come in and see what our learning focus for the fortnight is. If you ever find yourself wondering how to extend our learning focus at home, we are more than happy for you to inquire and we would love for you to share what you do to teach similar concepts at home. Learning is always deeper when extended at home or seen to be valued by family.