

Acknowledgement of Country

Gratitude Puzzle Activity

We have created this activity for mentors or teachers to use with their children. An Acknowledgement of Country is an important aspect of recognising Aboriginal people as the First Australians and custodians of the land on which we live.

This will help ensure the children/child is aware of the past and ongoing connection of Aboriginal people to place and land. It is a small gesture of respect and recognition of the association with land and place of Aboriginal people and their history.

Activities

Gratitude Puzzle

Cut out the puzzle pieces on the following page and write on each what you are grateful to do, and experience on this precious land in which we live, walk and learn. Work together or ask the child to colour in each piece with a different design, signifying why you are grateful to live on the land which has been cared for by First Nations people for thousands of years. When each piece is coloured in, put the puzzle together and talk through all the things you are grateful for together.

Choose a place that is important to you

Everyone should choose a place that is significant to them. A place they are grateful for and that makes them feel connected to the land they live on. This could be a local park they play in, a beach they like to visit or a local holiday spot.

Write a thank you for that place

Ask them to write the reasons they like that place, and construct a thank you to First Nations people for that place. They could be thankful for allowing them to visit and use that place, for looking after and caring for that land, and for teaching others about that place.

Write a personal Acknowledgement of Country

As a pair, group, or individually, expand on your puzzle and thank you and write an Acknowledgement of Country for the land that you learn, work and play on. Consider all that you are grateful to do on this land, and demonstrate respect for First Nations people. You could research together the group in which this land belongs, the language they speak and the traditions they have practiced for years. An example Acknowledgment is given above.

Example Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we meet. We continue this learning journey together.

We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and future and acknowledge their spiritual connection to Country.





