

# Forest School SA – Cross-Curriculum Priorities Overview (All Year Levels)

Aligned with the Australian Curriculum & Early Years Learning Framework

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## We Learn on Peramangk Country

Forest School SA takes place on Peramangk land, and we honour the ongoing connection of the Peramangk People to Country, community, and culture. We also learn about the Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri peoples, whose lands many of our families and students live on. Through this, we aim to build a deeper understanding of local First Nations knowledge systems, values, and relationships with the land.

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## 1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

### Our Approach:

Forest School SA is committed to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across all year levels. We recognise the deep spiritual and cultural connection First Nations Peoples have with Country and Place and nurture children's awareness, respect, and curiosity about these cultures through land-based, experiential learning.

### How this looks at Forest School SA:

- Daily **Acknowledgement of Country** and respectful conversations about land and its traditional custodians
  - Storytelling that includes **Aboriginal Dreaming stories** and cultural narratives (shared appropriately and with respect)
  - Learning about **bush foods, native species**, and sustainable practices informed by **Indigenous ecological knowledge**
  - Respectful engagement with **local First Nations resources**, stories, and cultural knowledge
  - Exploring themes of **Country/Place**, care for land, and connection through **art, stories, observation, and seasonal cycles**
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## 2. Sustainability

### Our Approach:

We are deeply committed to modelling and teaching sustainability in all that we do. Our bush-based learning provides daily opportunities to connect with the natural world, observe ecological systems, and foster stewardship of the earth.

### How this looks at Forest School SA:

- Use of **recycled, natural, and low-impact materials** in all play and craft activities
  - Encouraging children to engage in **waste reduction, composting, and leave-no-trace practices**
  - Inquiry-based learning into **ecosystems, seasonal changes, habitat care, and natural resource use**
  - Discussions and projects that explore **human impact** and how we can **live more gently on the earth**
  - Practical activities like **building habitats, tracking change, and creating sustainable routines**
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## 3. Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia

### Our Approach:

While our program is grounded in local land-based learning, we encourage children to develop a global outlook and understanding of Australia's place in the world. This includes recognising diverse cultural perspectives and traditions, particularly from across Asia.

### How this looks at Forest School SA:

- Sharing **traditional nature-based stories, proverbs, and folk tales from Asia**
  - Exploring **plant uses, sustainable practices**, and nature rituals from various Asian cultures (e.g. Japanese forest bathing, Chinese tea, Balinese offerings)
  - Introducing **cultural cooking ideas, spices, or garden plants** from Asia during shared meals and gardening sessions
  - Encouraging respect and open-mindedness toward diverse cultural practices connected to nature, food, and wellbeing
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## **Why Cross-Curriculum Priorities Matter in Forest School**

Integrating these priorities enriches our program and gives children a broader worldview rooted in **respect, responsibility, and connection**. It ensures that Forest School is not just about playing in nature — it's about raising thoughtful, informed, and compassionate young people who care for Country and community.