

I'M ALL IN FOR RECONCILIATION

Let's look beyond the headline.

What shifted legally, and what did not shift socially?

Legal shift

Lived reality

OUR ECEC IS ALL IN FOR RECONCILIATION

1. What is Country teaching us today?

This shifts the lens immediately.

Instead of “What are we learning?” it becomes relational.

Children might say:

- The wind is strong
- The ants are busy
- The ground is dry

You can then follow with:

What do we learn from that?

2. Who takes care of this place?

This opens responsibility and community.

You can extend with:

- Who looked after this place before us?
- How do we look after it now?

This introduces custodianship without overcomplicating it.

3. How does this place make you feel?

Country is sensory and emotional.

Encourage noticing:

- What can you hear?
- What can you smell?
- What feels different today?

This builds belonging and connection, not just knowledge.

OUR ECEC IS ALL IN FOR RECONCILIATION

4. What do you think this tree, rock, or river would say if it could talk?

This is powerful for empathy.

It encourages:

- Care
- Perspective taking
- Relationship with more than human kin

It gently introduces the idea that everything has purpose and place.

5. What can we do to show Country we care?

This moves from noticing to action.

Children might suggest:

- Picking up rubbish
- Watering plants
- Walking gently
- Listening quietly

This is responsibility in practice.

You are right. We already explore outside. We already sit in sand and mud and water.

The shift is this:

We stop seeing nature as an activity.

We start seeing it as teacher.

That is where Country becomes the first classroom.

And that is where reconciliation begins to live in the everyday.

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