

EVERY DAY HAPPENINGS



It's time to pack up



At Kindergarten, children are involved in many routines throughout each session. The way we move through each day in a similar way offers children a predictable rhythm and supports an understanding of the world around them. Maintaining familiar routines at home, like putting things away when we are done, can offer rich learning opportunities for children. Making these routines a bit of fun means the play continues, even though it's time to pack up.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Boxes/containers/tubs to sort toys
- Any music (you can search pack away songs on YouTube or Spotify) Music with a quick tempo gets children and adults moving
- A bit of imagination.



WHAT LEARNING IS HAPPENING?

- Understanding the community element of family and feel connected to their role in this dynamic and shifting time.
- Enabling testing of rights and responsibilities as children become aware of their impact when toys aren't packed away.
- Supporting hand eye co-ordination through the sorting, placing and re-setting of play spaces.
- Language and concept development through the use of conversation and questioning.
- Exploring ways to cooperate and work collaboratively within the family system.

WHAT YOU COULD DO:

- Give plenty of warning that we'll be tidying up (5-10 minutes).
- Use a song as a cue for when tidy up time starts and encouraging dancing while you tidy (do they use a special song at your education service?).
- Sort toys into colours, sort by size big/small or move fast/slow to get things put away.
- Sort toys that are no longer used or could go to those in need.
- Make it into a game, e.g. pretend to be diggers by scooping toys up.
- Plan for what's next once the job is done.

WORDS OR PHRASES TO USE:

- Sort, line up, stack.
- In five more minutes, we'll need to pack up so we can...
- "What's going to work - teamwork."
- Can you find me all the blue toys....?
- Can we use our digger scooping arms to collect the toys?
- Who can pick up the most toys the fastest?
- When we finish packing up, it's time for...

WHERE TO NEXT?

- Encourage children to resource their own learning with items already found around the home - is there a spare empty box or carton that could be used to collect toys not being used. You could decorate this box to encourage ownership of the tidying up process.
- Ask your child how would they like their toys set out ready for tomorrow's play and help them achieve this scene in the play space.

