

Yaama! Welcome to **Jungaa**



Jungaa is the Dharug word for Octopus. Dharug is the language of the Gadigal people on whose land we play and learn. We thank the Gadigal people for sharing their land and promise to look after our class totem - Jungaa.

A totem is an animal or plant given to you at birth that your family has a special connection to. Each of us in the IGS Early Learning community belong to a totem group. It means you are responsible for looking after that animal or plant and its habitat.

Our totem artworks were created during our Language for Belonging Project by Wiradjuri artist Bianca Caldwell and the children of IGS Early Learning 2022.

Through creating and yarning Bianca has given us part of herself, her spirit and her knowledge.



Aunty B taught children to weave with natural materials. The weaving is the seaweed in the artwork. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples use weaving for making baskets, bags, rope and string to catch fish.

Jungaa is a wise animal and represents the sharing of wisdom between children and teachers. The circles represent children, families, teachers and community.

Some Aboriginal Elders are knowledge holders. They can pass their knowledge onto others. Knowledge is passed down through storytelling, symbols and doing things together.

We used natural shells collected from the beach. We learned to only take what we need and leave most natural things where we find them. We respect the plants and the animals.



Aboriginal jarjums (children) were taught by their Elders. They call their Elders Aunty or Uncle as a sign of respect.

We need to look after and protect the Jungaa's habitat, the ocean.

Talking together is called yarning. It's an important way to learn together. When yarning whilst making things your spirit and the knowledge shared stays in the object.

The children created a sandy base to depict the ocean floor. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples use natural materials to make their artworks.

