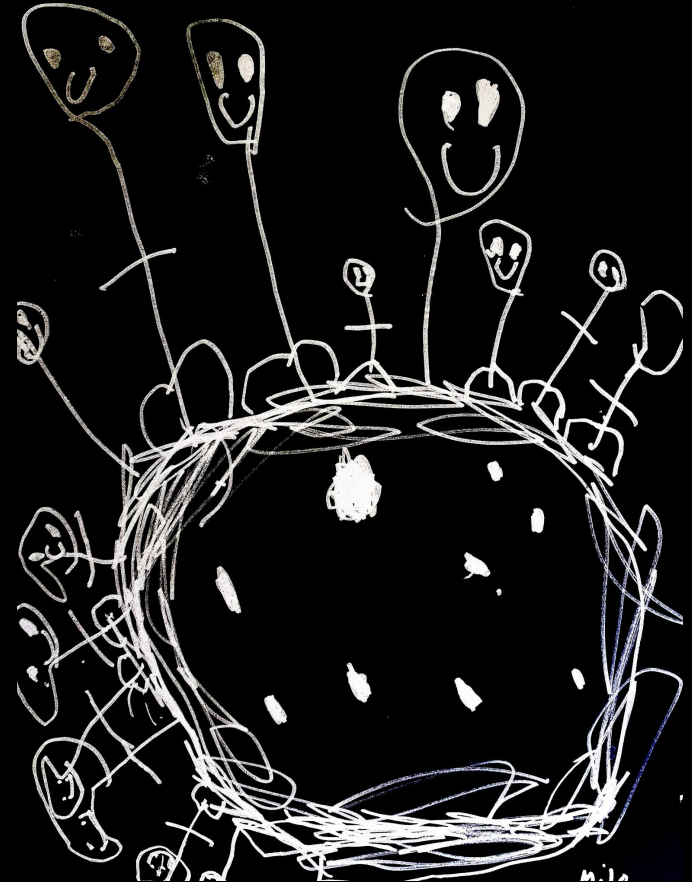


# Constructing in the Neighbourhood

Education is not an affair of 'telling'  
and being told, but an active and  
constructive process. *John Dewey*

*We got as many people as possible to  
help lift it up.*





Why are children drawn to construction?

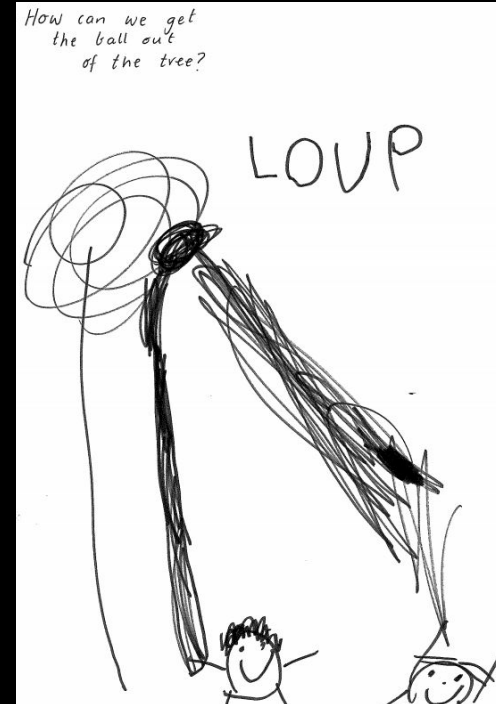
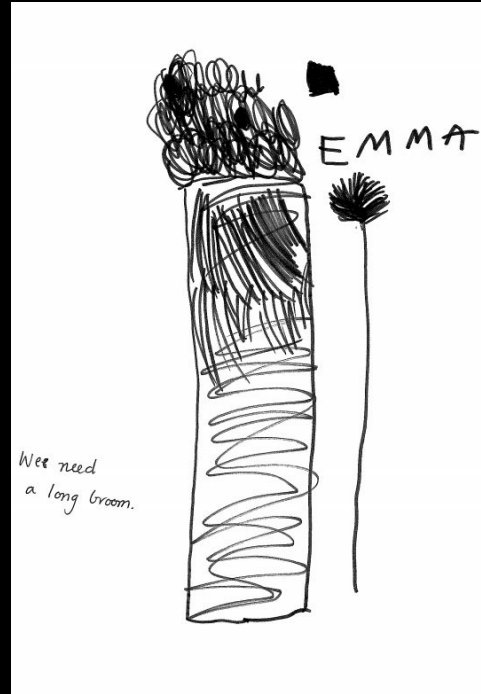
What is the purpose and process of construction?

What is the link between construction and problem solving?

How do children construct knowledge and use it to understand their world?

How can we as educators use children's love of construction to enhance or deepen learning?

## Constructing to problem solve



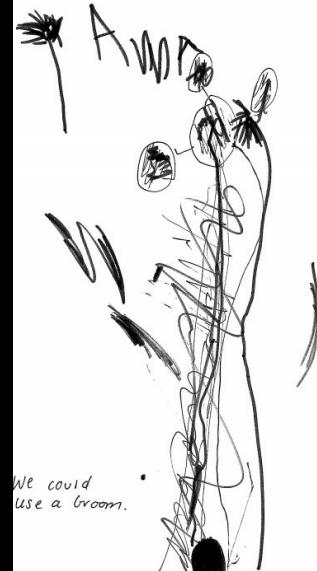
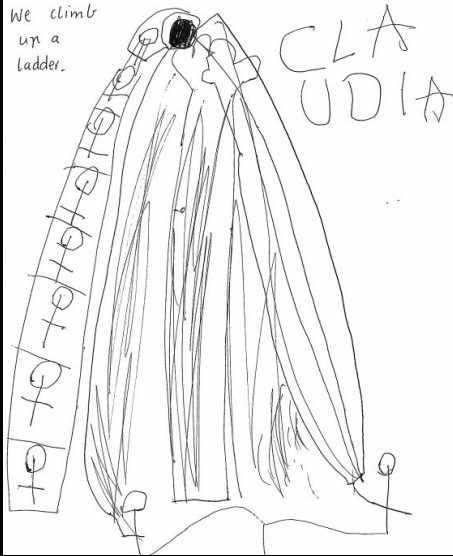
# Constructing to problem solve

We need a rope to  
shake the tree. The  
ball will fall out of  
the tree.

How long does the  
rope need to be?



We climb  
up a  
ladder.



We could  
use a broom.



## Constructing to problem solve



# Constructing with blocks





# Constructing Cities

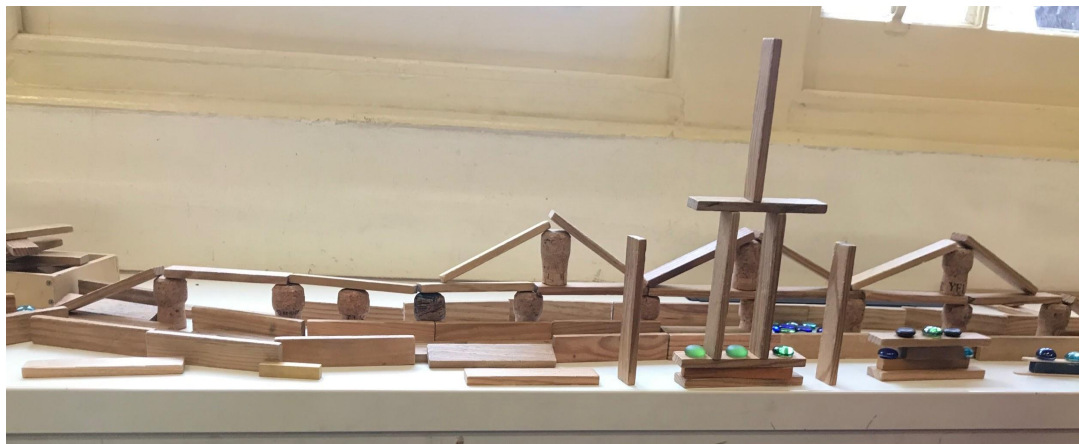
**Emma:** I wonder what cities are made out of and how cities are different in Australia and other countries.

**Zack:** I wonder why there's not many trees in the city?

**Maggie:** There's lots of things in the city but why are there all those things in the city? What we really want to know is what is a city.



# Constructing Bridges





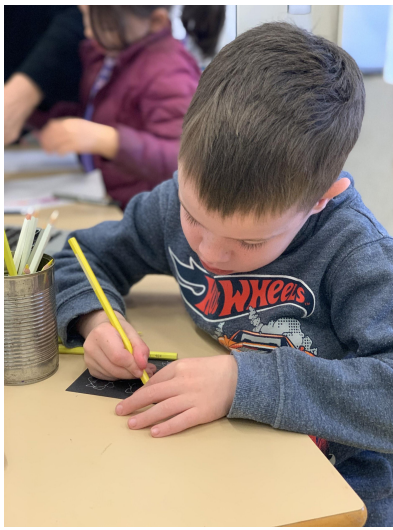
# Constructing Stories

We don't have to just draw to create stories  
we can make stories with other things like  
string, paint, clay, collage.

*Mira 5.8*







**Huon:** Today in the Learning Commons we were making a book that we started over a week ago. Today we finished it off. This is what the book is, it's talking about stars and it's called The Book of Stars.

**Anna:** It all started in the studio and we painted some stars and then Huon got the idea of making a story about stars.

**Amy:** What are you planning to do next?

**Anna:** (I wondered) how do stars float in space?

**Huon:** I thought maybe because there's no gravity but then I wondered if they move. Then I was wondering if you go from like Melbourne to Tasmania will you be seeing the same stars but on a different angle?





*In our city there are parks.*

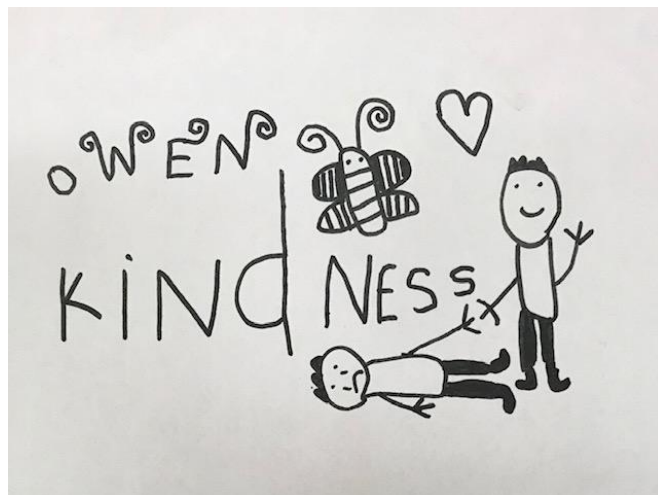






We should explain what kindness is all about to the principal so she can understand.

*Alina 5.2 years*



**Ada-** We could make 100 hearts.

**Alina-** They will make other people happy and if we did 100 hearts it would take a long time.

**Alina-** We don't know how many people are not happy. We don't know so we need to find out.

**Hattie-** We could share the hearts and make people happy but it might take 100 years!

**Alina-** We can give them our hearts, because that's how we be kind.

**Coco-** We could find people if they are sad and give them some hearts.

**Alina-** How do we find out who needs them, because we don't just give them to everyone we see, we actually find people who are hurt.

**Ada-** When they have blood.

**Hattie-** Hurt feelings.



Constructing Kindness  
The Kindness Project



LOVE



**Constructing Kindness**  
The Kindness Project



**HUG**







Constructing with Clay

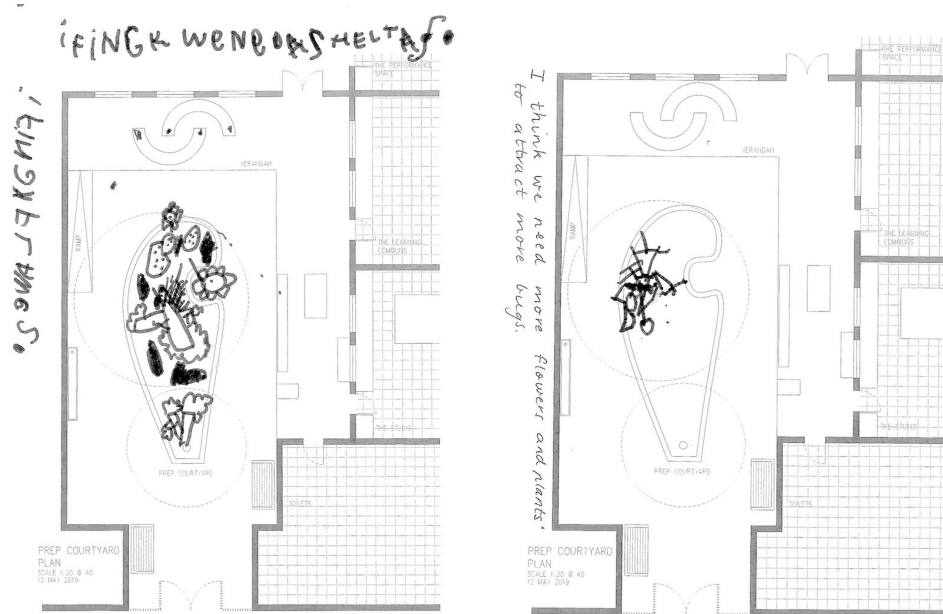








# Constructing Place



**Huon** - This was an idea Willem, Flynn and I had. We might make a path through the rock area.

**Flynn** - I think we should make a veggie patch so more bugs and ants and we should get flowers and grass so they are attract them

**Elias** - We could construct pretty stuff in the courtyard

**Jess** - Like what?

**Elias** - Colours, posters

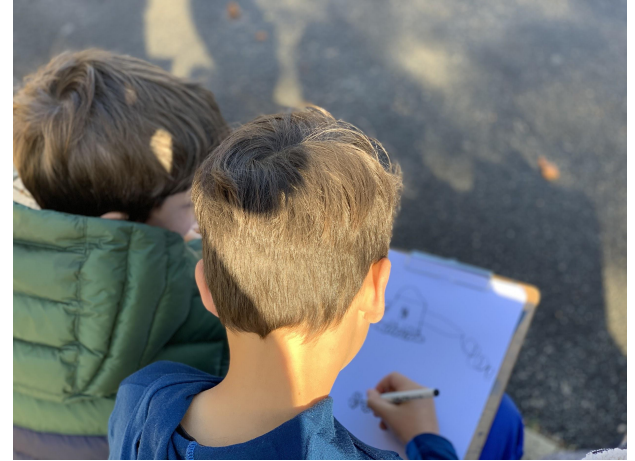
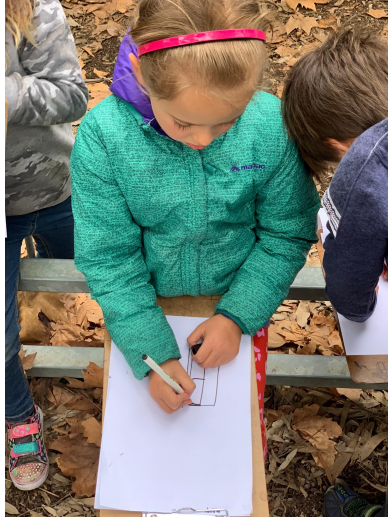
**Maddy** - We could put in painted stones medium size.

**Owen** - We could put up some kindness posters.

**Huon** - we could put some of our paintings and drawings.

I think construction is you first have to think about it, then you make a plan and then you build it with your team. *Evie 5.7 years*

# Constructing Place



Construction is like when you build something and when you make a mistake you can deconstruct it.

*Flynn 6.5 years*



# Threads of Construction

**Place  
Stories  
Kindness**



You can construct a lot. You could construct learning, you can construct painting, you can construct writing, you can construct friendships, you can construct building places, you can construct hearts.

*Huon 6.5 years*

# Possibilities.....

Constructing a Place - The courtyard garden bed

A gift from us to next year's preps? The Ultimate gift of Kindness?

Designing a Garden bed?

A garden that attracts bugs and ants?

A garden with a 'construction' in it?

A Heart Sculpture/Mobile?

Constructing our Story of Prep?

Pull all the main threads together, Place, Stories and Kindness?

**I think we  
should put the  
kindness  
posters in the  
courtyard.  
Owen**

**In the courtyard  
we could make  
100 flowers  
hanging from  
the trees. CJ**

# An Invitation to a Courtyard Working Bee

