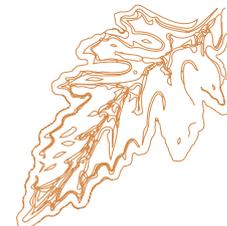


WHAT IS OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING?

Outdoor play and learning is child-led, educator supported, unstructured play on and with the land.



1. Choose a site:

- ☞ With sticks, leaves and grasses - it can be a small patch with a tree.
- ☞ Without fixed equipment - somewhere not often used or off the school grounds.



Image courtesy of Nature. Be in it.

2. Make it safe:

- ☞ Write a risk benefit assessment.
- ☞ Know and provide first aid if needed.
- ☞ Include a snake bandage in your kit.
- ☞ Bring a mat to all sit on.
- ☞ Establish physical boundaries - ropes and markers work well.
- ☞ Bring other adults with you.

4. Have fun:

- ☞ You don't need to know it all - be a co-learner.
- ☞ Rainy days can be the best and the most memorable.
- ☞ Follow the students lead. Allow them to show you where to go and what to do.
- ☞ Smile and play on their level - be curious.

3. Prepare, plan and play:

- ☞ Make time regularly - all year round if practical. Over an hour is recommended.
- ☞ Establish set routines and expectations.
- ☞ Plan a mini lesson or stimulus for learning linked to classroom inquiry.
- ☞ Allow time for free, unstructured play.
- ☞ Record learning as it happens and let it guide your future planning.
- ☞ Dress for the weather - long sleeves and pants provide protection.
- ☞ Consider waterproof pants and a gumboot library for wet weather.

Try these questions in your next outdoor lesson to empower children to lead and share:

- ☞ Show me what you're working on?
- ☞ Where should we start?
- ☞ Tell me more about that?
- ☞ What makes you say that?
- ☞ What do you think it is? How do you know?
- ☞ I'm curious about the way you...



- ☞ What are you noticing?
- ☞ What might be another way to think about doing this?
- ☞ How will you make it better next time?
- ☞ What do you need?
- ☞ What is working well here?
- ☞ How could you fix that?
- ☞ What is your plan...



Image courtesy of Nature. Be in it.

Ideas to get you started:

- ☞ Practice mindfulness and meditation near trees.
- ☞ Make shelter and cubbies.
- ☞ Make imaginative worlds.
- ☞ Create a frame with sticks on the ground and create pictures using natural materials.
- ☞ Mix colours and nature potions.
- ☞ Balance on logs, trees or branches.
- ☞ Climb trees.

- ☞ Use magnifying glasses to enjoy the micro world.
- ☞ Water and mud play using bowls, buckets and measuring jugs, clay can also be fun.
- ☞ Role play and imagination activities.
- ☞ Sing songs and tell stories.
- ☞ Learn about Aboriginal culture through stories and invite Aboriginal community members to share.

Read about the Australian Curriculum links at:

https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/media/3224/oe_cc_5-6_21.pdf