Nature Play Philosophy

The Magic of nature play at Angle Vale preschool: Acknowledging Its Benefits in Early Childhood

Exploring the natural world through the perspective of Angle Vale preschool..
Nature play is essential in early childhood, offering a unique and enriching environment where children can explore, learn, and grow. Our nature play philosophy embraces the belief that nature is not just a environment for play but an active participant in a child's learning journey.

Our values

At Angle Vale preschool, we believe:

Strong connections to the natural world and home

Nature play fosters a deep connection between children and the natural world. By engaging with our environment, children develop an appreciation for nature's beauty and complexity. This connection encourages respect and responsibility for the environment, laying the foundation for sustainable living.

Connection to country

Cultural Awareness and Respect: By integrating Indigenous stories, traditions, and knowledge into nature play, children learn to value diverse perspectives and cultural heritage. This fosters respect and empathy, building a more inclusive community.

Holistic Development

Nature play supports holistic development by engaging all senses. Children climb trees, feel the texture of leaves, listen to birds, and observe the changing seasons. These experiences enhance physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development, promoting overall wellbeing and connectedness to the natural world.

Imagination and Creativity

The natural world is a limitless canvas for imagination and creativity. Children have opportunities to transform sticks into magic wands, rocks into treasures, and mud into masterpieces. This unstructured play encourages problem-solving, innovation, and creative thinking.

Risk-Taking and Resilience

Nature play provides opportunities for safe risk-taking. Climbing, balancing, and exploring unfamiliar terrains help children assess risks and build resilience. These experiences teach them to navigate challenges, boosting confidence and independence.

Emotional Wellbeing

Being in nature promotes a sense of calm, reducing stress and worries. It provides a space for reflection and relaxation, supporting emotional regulation. Children learn to find joy in the simplicity of the natural surroundings.

Sense of Belonging

Engaging with the land helps children develop a sense of belonging and identity. They learn that they are part of a larger ecosystem, connected to the land and its history.

Social Skills and Collaboration

Nature play often involves group experiences, fostering social interactions and collaboration. Children learn to communicate, share, and collaborate together, building strong relationships and a sense of community.

Our philosophy of nature play in early childhood is supported by the belief that nature is a powerful teacher. By immersing children in natural environments, we provide them with opportunities to explore, discover, and grow in ways that are meaningful and lasting. Nature play nurtures a lifelong love for learning and the environment, shaping well-rounded individuals who are connected to the world around them.

Developed: March 2025 **Next review: March 2026**

Nature play philosophy developed in consultation with children, families and our local community.