

# Nature Play



*'Natural and wild spaces offer the best opportunities for children to play freely outdoors'*-  
quoted from Nature Play SA

Nature play will continue to be a pedagogy in which we follow and incorporate into our daily program at preschool.

Watch this space develop and unfold as we take part in professional conversations and consultation, as well as professional development.

We will begin by following the principles below and using the Nature Play SA resource 'Learning Outdoors Benefits and Risk'.



Natural and wild spaces offer the best opportunities for children to play freely outdoors. We can't always provide this experience but we can create spaces that offer rich and diverse experiences that enable children to play how they want to play, that will test their cognitive and physical capabilities, stimulate their senses, provide social interactions or independent play, and will teach them about living things and how to care for them.

The following principles have been developed by Nature Play SA to assist you create an environment that will help all children who use this space to enjoy freedom, fantasy, privacy and peace.

## Listen to childrens' voices

**Consult broadly with the children who will be using the space, listen to what they are saying and create an environment that reflects their perspectives on the world and how they like to play.**

Listen reflectively to the children allowing them to express their ideas and aspirations through creative mediums and carefully interpret into reality.

## Capture a sense of place

**Give children a sense of belonging and of knowing where they have come from and what needs to be respected and preserved.**

Your design should capture stories and elements that are unique to your site, your area, your culture, your values, your history. They should be interactive and tangible and support education.

## Stimulate the senses

**Children experience the diversity and beauty of the world through their senses. Create a space that will give children an opportunity to engage all 5 senses and provide an understanding of the changing seasons and context.**

**Touch** – provide different textures in pathway materials, vegetation, rocks, structures – rough, smooth, prickly, furry, uneven, sharp, wet, dry

**Sight** – use varieties of natural colours, intensity of light, shapes, heights, forms through vegetation, sculpture, art, birds, butterflies, insects. Make it beautiful and inspiring to look at.

**Smell** – Plant herbs, bushes/trees with scented leaves and flowers

**Taste** – Include vegetable gardens, fruit trees, edible plants

**Listen** – create a soundscape using running water, rustling leaves/grasses, insect hotels, bird gardens.