

Embracing nature play in education

May 17, Henley Beach Surf Club

Nature Play
SA

Connection • Wellbeing • Belonging

This full-day workshop is ideal for Early Years and Primary School educators. It aims to provide educators with the knowledge, confidence and skills to embrace more outdoor learning and play. It explores themes such as curiosity, sensory play, risk, and improving outdoor learning spaces.

Time	Session Program		
8.45am	Arrival (tea and coffee)		
9.00am	Welcome to Country <i>Uncle Tamaru</i>		
9:30am	Introductions <i>Sarah Sutter, CEO Nature Play SA</i>		
9.45am	The Habitat of Childhood <i>Jason Tyndall</i> Children will always play in whatever environment they are in. However, for children to flourish they need spaces that are designed with intention. This session will explore how nature play can help a child's imagination, curiosity and wellbeing thrive, how to incorporate small changes for big impact, and what nature connection looks like for children in the context of play and learning.		
10.30am	Morning Tea		
Building Knowledge (<i>sessions repeated</i>)			
10.50am to 11.30am & 11.35am to 12.15pm	Play in the Early Years <i>Amy Saunders + Jade McCarthy</i> This interactive outdoor session explores bookish play, sensory play and nature tables. It will provide educators with ideas and resources that can be used 'the next day'	The Cycle of Curiosity <i>Jason Tyndall</i> This session will reveal why curiosity is one of the most critical dispositions to value and nurture in children.	Principles of Nature Play Spaces <i>Abe Moore</i> This session explores the principles of nature play spaces. Utilising an auditing tool, educators can identify the next steps for improving outdoor learning and play spaces.
12.20pm	Lunch		
Gaining Practical Skills (<i>sessions repeated</i>)			
1.00 pm to 1.50pm & 1.55pm to 2.45pm	Exploring sensory play and cultural education through natural pigments and Aboriginal symbols <i>Uncle Tamaru (Kaurna) and Narrah Zollo</i> In this sensory session attendees will explore key concepts behind pigments derived from nature and create their own artistic pieces using cultural symbols under the guidance of Uncle Tamaru.	Creative and critical thinking through loose parts play <i>Jason Tyndall</i> In this interactive and informative session participants will explore the role loose parts play in strengthening learning dispositions. Setting up big and small loose parts play will be discussed.	Capable and competent risk-taking <i>Abe Moore and Cameron Edwards</i> Through the art of whittling attendees will explore what risk-taking means in an education context through undertaking their own risk assessments and engaging in risky activities using tools.
2.45pm	Sustainable Schools Program <i>Green Adelaide</i>		
2.55pm	Wrap up <i>Sarah Sutter CEO Nature Play SA</i>		
3pm	Close		

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Several sessions will be outdoors – we have a contingency plan for bad weather that will involve minor amendments to the program.