Successful transference of the EYLF from Early Childhood and Primary School using Nature School Pedagogy

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EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018









































We take children's and families' voice seriously

"You'll be pleased to hear that my very own Explorer talks about Nature Explorers on a weekly basis. Freya talks about how much she loved NE and how program was so fantastic.

I cannot thank you all enough for nurturing this love of nature and appreciation of the environment in her. I truly believe her experience of NE has only served to firmly embed this in her psyche.

Whenever you are ready to open school-age Nature Explorers, Freya is VERY keen and eager to enrol."









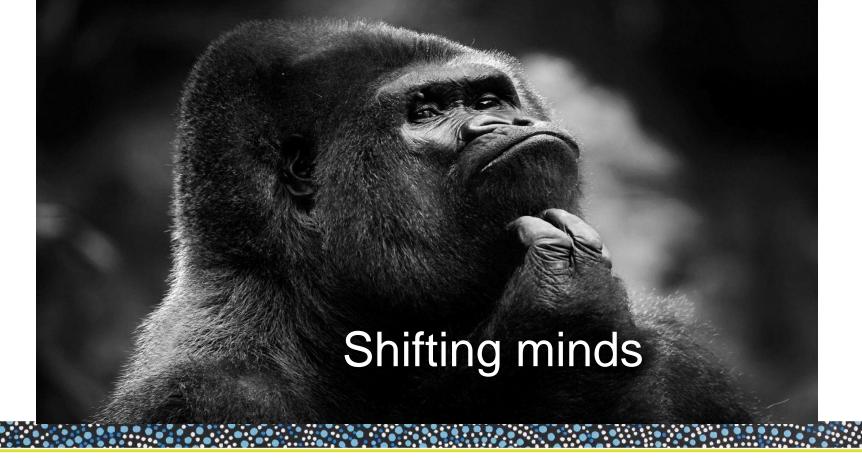






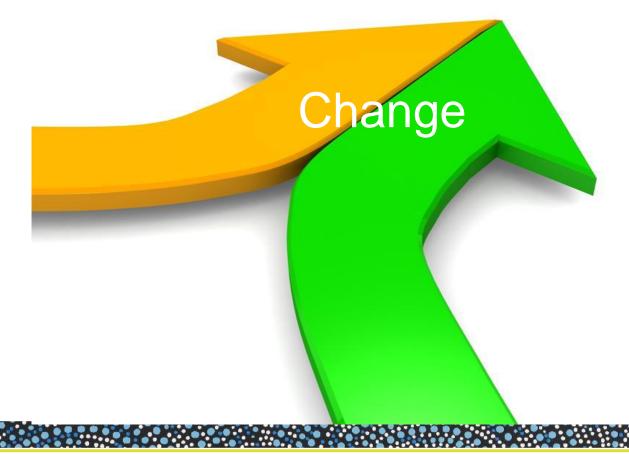






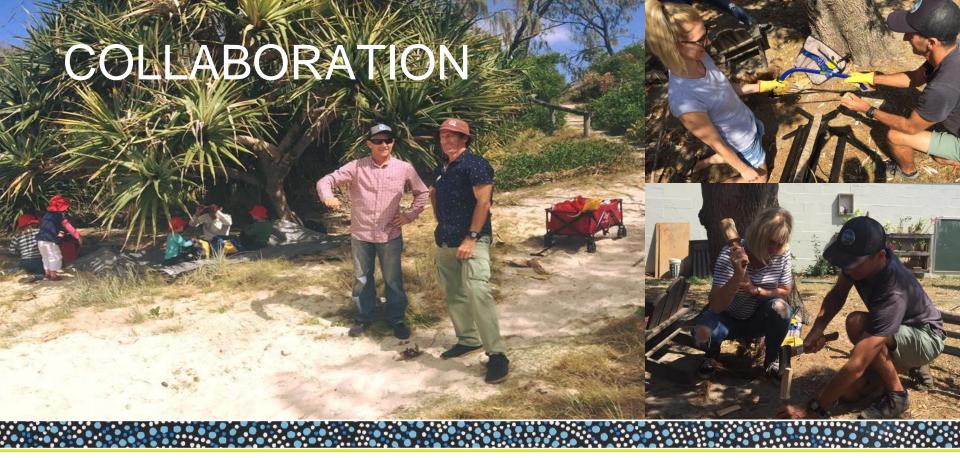














 $\begin{array}{c|c} \textbf{Early Childhood Australia} & \textbf{Celebrating 80} \\ \textbf{A voice for young children} \end{array}$

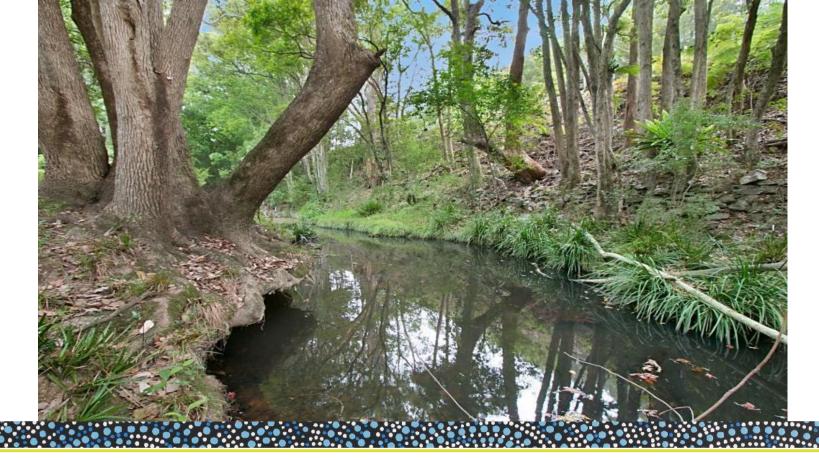
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Benefits and outcomes





Behaviours









Learning to explore in nature

Stokers Siding students get ready for adventures

Aisling Bronnan

STOKERS Siding Public. School students are getting back to nature with the Far North Coast's first Nature Explorers Primary School

Based on the success of the Pottsville Beach Community Preschool Nature Explorers program. Stokers Siding principal Cherie King said she believed a nature-based initiative allowed children to get back to basics with the

"I was highly motivated to discover what the research benefits are far reaching and have a noticeable impact on developing the whole child," Ms King said.

"The combination of the research, our professional learning with the highly talented staff at Pottsville Beach Community Preschool and the Nature Explorers program made for an easy decision to work with our preschool colleagues."

Based on the Forest School concept, the weekly two-hour program, which starts this week at the

engaging with outdoor activities to enhance their connection with the environment, their peers and themselves.

Ms King said the program will address the key learning areas, while building children's confidence and self-esteem, allowing them to take risks, problem solve, think for themselves, work as a team and develop an understanding of sustainability.

opportunity to get back in nature, reconnecting with self-directed learning was saying, which is that the obviously with safety being the priority," Ms King said. "We're going to be guided

by the interest of the kids (because) our kids are so

"It's giving children the opportunity to climb trees, use tools and use fire under supervision with a purpose. "We're going to use our

creek which gives us an opportunity to do water bug surveys, if that's what the kids want. (We'll also) learn about snake safety and birds and actually being mindful through sitting and

school, will have children

"It's about giving kids the

BIG OUTDOORS: Stokers Siding students are excited to be a part of the new Nature Explorers program. PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED Ms King said she believed

the new program would allow children to come out of their shell if they're feeling

"The research says that the emotional benefits for children are just overwhelming," she said.

"When you have children and I'm not saying we have them here, that have more and more mental health

issues, we need to be not just thinking about them as these little vessels that we've got to fill up, we've got to think about them as a whole person."

Ms King said the school would initially run the Nature Explorers pilot program for students in Kindergarten to Year 2. however in 2018 the program will be available from Kindergarten to Year 6.

Stokers Siding Public School principal Cherie King with







If we delegate tasks, we create followers. If we delegate authority, we create leaders



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