

Vision impaired child climbs a tree...

Unexpected joys,  
challenges and successes  
in outdoor learning programmes



Early Childhood Australia  
A voice for young children

Celebrating 80 years

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

BE THE DIFFERENCE  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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Big Fat Smile Group Ltd







'It's not just a circle - Reflect and Connect'

NAIDOC Week 2015.









Rethink









Maths, Science and Literacy







Teamwork

Problem solving



The Kelly Kettle

Where does the water go?





How big is the tree?





This is a nice place for a rest

A young girl with blonde hair is sitting on the ground in a forest. She is wearing a bright pink zip-up hoodie, dark blue pants, and large, shiny pink rain boots. On her head, she has a large, dark blue hat with a white checkered band. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is filled with green foliage and a tree trunk. A green text box at the top of the image contains the text "This is a nice place for a rest".

# Caps for Sale!





How many can fit on  
the shadow?

What frog?

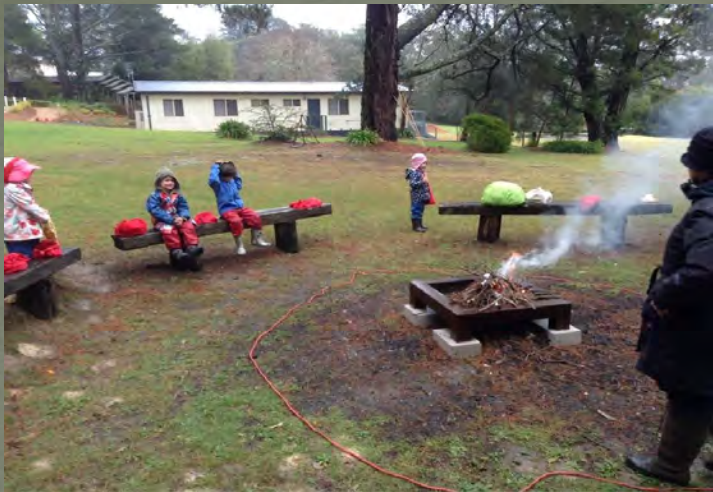


What colour is that?





















Quest for Life  
Foundation

Killarney House  
Bundanoon













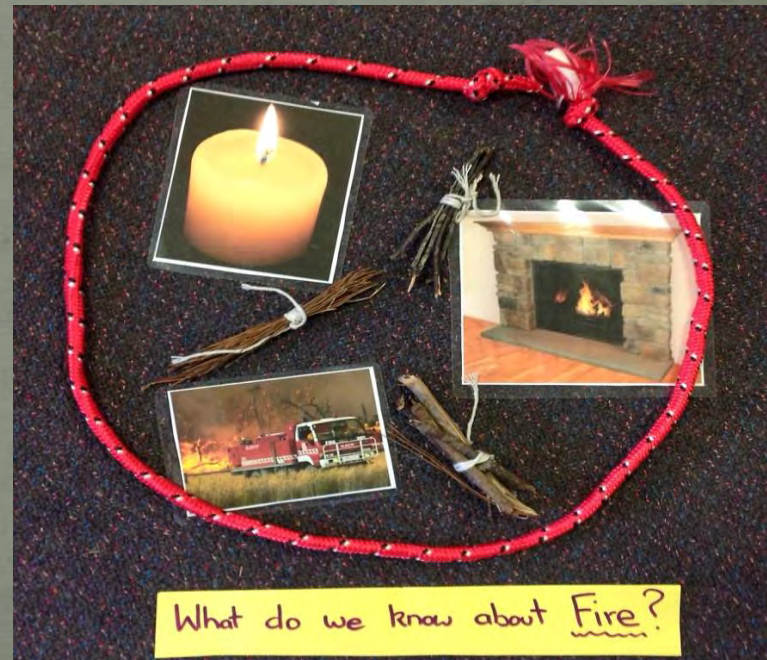
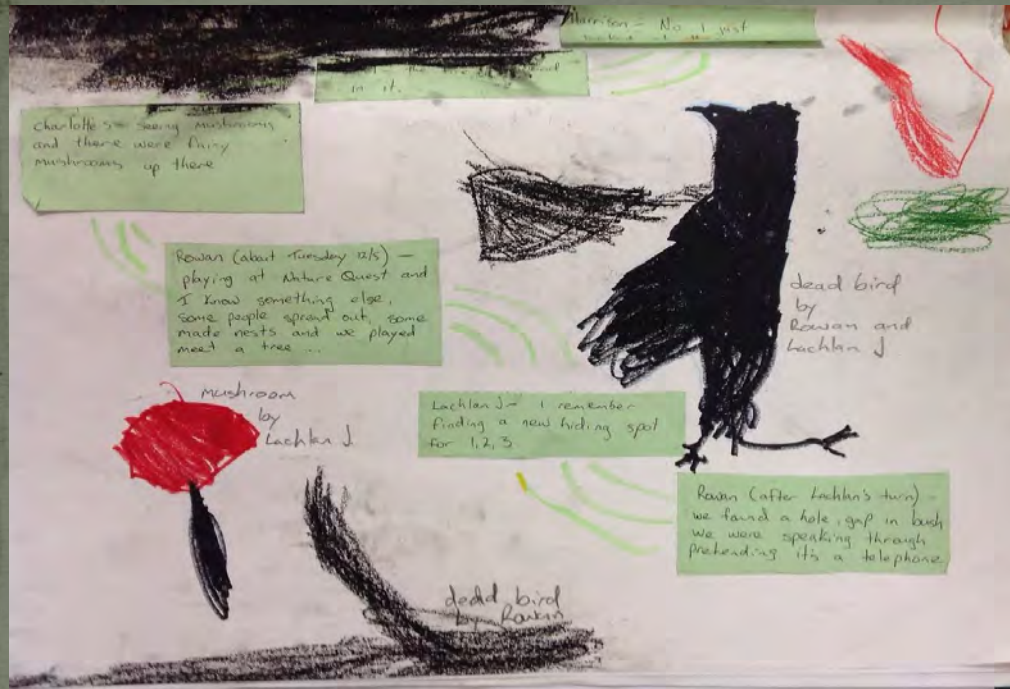
Children help to do site  
safety checks























Communication and information  
Parent Evening March 2015









Do you have enough space?



Check your blood bubble.





'I can't get over what a beautiful environment my granddaughter is exposed to every day she attends. I never knew anything like this when I was a kid. Please... keep it going just the way you are!'

Peter

"This is fantastic, so interesting! Love this approach to education and life".

Jen  
Parent



"We love Nature Quest so much! Feel incredibly blessed to be a part of this preschool community, and to enjoy the talents of our brilliant preschool staff. Thank you so much xo!"

Hannah  
Parent

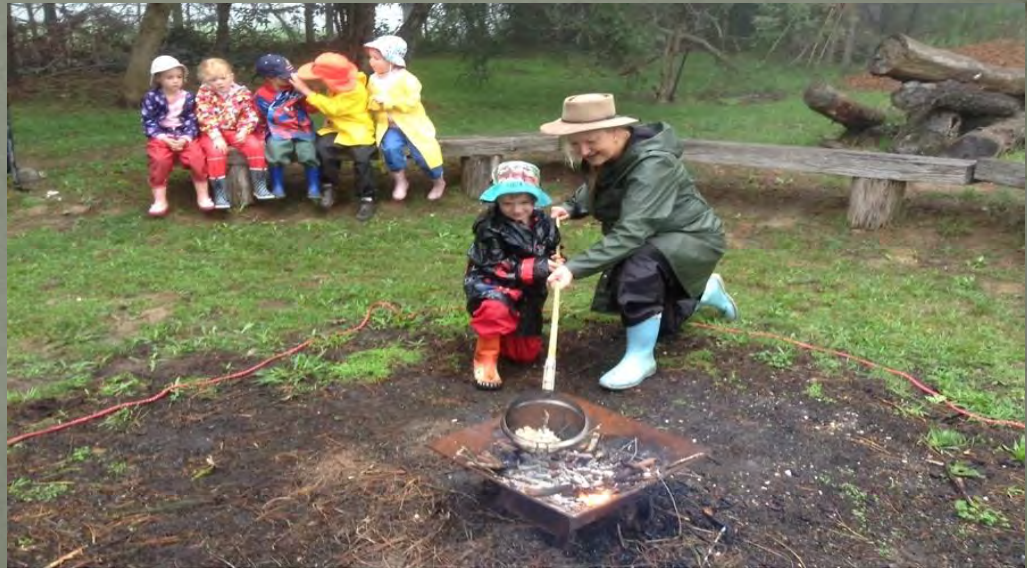




Cooking on the fire

Popcorn!

Yum!







Trying

Trying



**LOTS** of trying

Look!  
I did it!

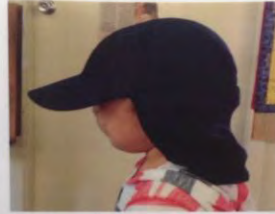


*We're Going to Nature Quest!*

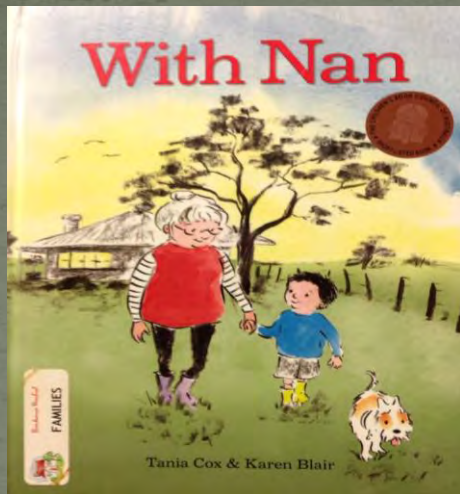


A sunhat,  
closed toe shoes,  
a red cup, our morning  
tea and  
a bag  
to put it all in.

What will we need?







Provocation for our first  
Nature Quest sessions.  
All about being observant and  
seeing the little details.

Post sent to parents





Look sap! It's like tree blood.







Over time educators can reflect on how children have developed, how they have engaged with increasingly complex ideas and participated in increasingly sophisticated learning experiences.

BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia pg 17





## Fred and Ted's Treasure Hunt

Inside

Outside

Beyond





Children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including coordination, balance and agility, and they are sick less often

(Grahn, et al. 1997, Fjortoft & Sageie 2000)



The children  
made their own  
challenge





I can show you how

Look... see







Wonder is an important motivator for  
lifelong learning

(Wilson 1984)









What can you...

See?

Hear?

Feel?

Smell?

My  
Special Place







































Different  
ways











Mangalica - Hungary

“That’s not a pig!  
It’s a sheep!”



Large Black Pig - UK



Hampshire - UK



Kunekune - NZ



Red Wattle Hog - USA





PIG PIG PIG!









## Intelligences

Logical / Mathematical

Linguistic

Musical

Spatial / Visual

Bodily / Kinaesthetic

Interpersonal

Intrapersonal

Naturalist





## Schemas

Transporting

Trajectory

Rotation

Connection

Positioning

Transforming

Enveloping





Once interrupted an adult on average takes 20 minutes before returning to task.

Children can take up to 40 minutes to reengage with an activity.

*Niki Buchan - Inspired EC  
Australian Learning Tracks  
Documentation Framework  
June 2015*





Vygotsky





Malaguzzi

“It looks like a  
cubby house  
from here!”





Much of play is social. As such, play promotes learning about vital social skills such as turn-taking, sharing, negotiation and leadership.





Natural environments stimulate social interaction between children

(Moore 1986, Bixler et al. 2002)





“It’s a puddle party!”

Not sure if the risk is with the jumping...OR... standing too close









“...you can use sap like glue”

Exposure to natural environments  
improves children's  
cognitive development  
by improving their awareness, reasoning and  
observational skills

(Pyle 2002)







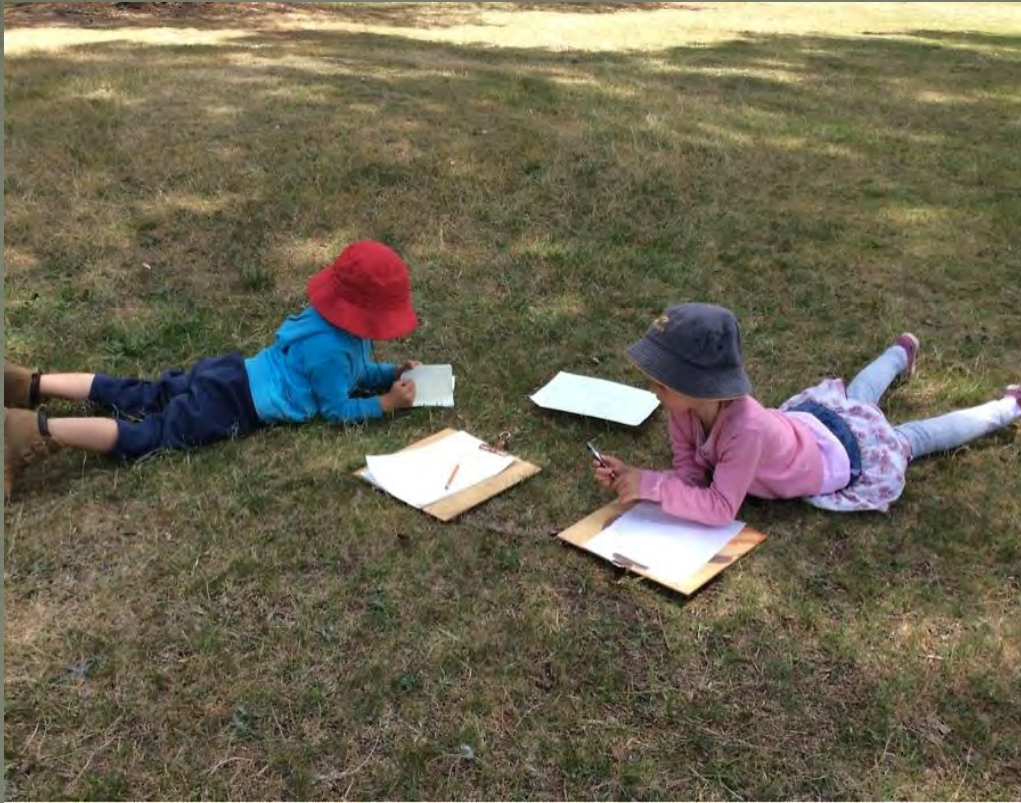
Early experiences with the natural world have been positively linked with the development of imagination and the sense of wonder

(Cobb 1977, Louv 1991)

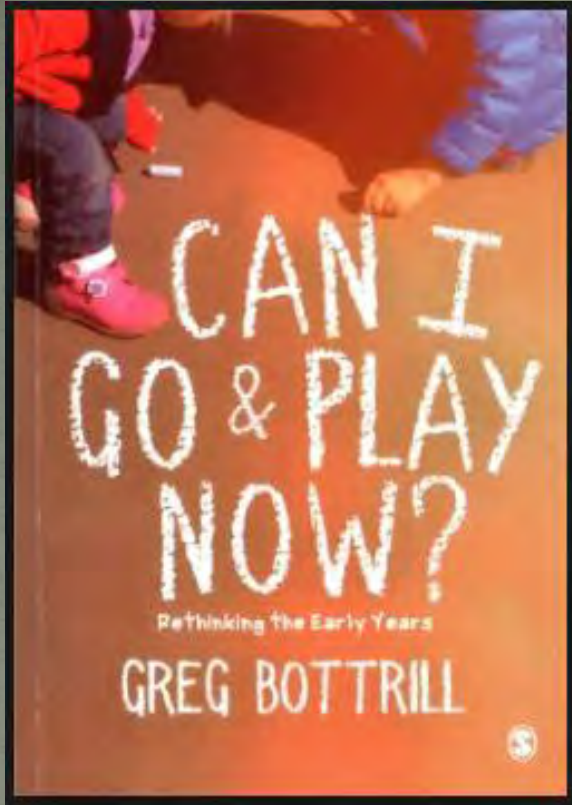












Can I go and Play now? Rethinking the Early Years  
Greg Bottrill , Sage Publications Ltd 2018)



## Fire Fairies







On our way to the local park





When you teach a child something  
you take away forever  
his chance of discovering it  
for himself.

Piaget







“It’s a window!”

Courage

Imagination

Creativity

Wonder

Being





What will  
you  
do with this  
window  
of opportunity?



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# References

**BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING** The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia pg 17

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