

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

Sofia Machado, Rebecca Smith, Cassy Read



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The quest for a new way of thinking



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NATURE EXPLORERS



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They lead
the way...



...ALWAYS!



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There are
risks



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They use
saws....



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They light
fire...



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and respect
wildlife



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Real and purposeful learning



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We learn
together



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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."



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Shifting minds



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Change



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COLLABORATION



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Benefits and outcomes



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Behaviours



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Documentation



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Learning to explore in nature

Stokers Siding students get ready for adventures

Aisling Brennan

aisling.brennan@tweeddailynews.com.au

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

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 outdoors.

"I was highly motivated to discover what the research was saying, which is that the 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

school, will have children 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.

"It's about giving kids the opportunity to get back in nature, reconnecting with self-directed learning 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 imaginative."

"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



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

listening."

Ms King said she believed the new program would allow children to come out of their shell if they're feeling stressed.

"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 students participating in the Nature Explorers program.



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



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www.m-rconsultancy.com
www.natureexplorers.com.au
info@m-rconsultancy.com



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