

PLAY is important to children’s development for many reasons. Our Nature Playground is serving as a wonderful place for our children to play, explore, think and learn. Here we have compiled some photos and quotes from some of the Prep children and also highlighted for parents the important benefits of this type of play for children.

Symbolic Play - something is something else eg. A seed pod is a mobile phone. Important for literacy and numeracy to understand that there are representations of things eg. Marks and shapes represent numerals = a number of things or that letters represent sounds and make/represent words.



“This is a nature class with things for fairies – a garden bed for fairies!”



“This is our house and this bit is a curtain because it’s soft like material.”

Dramatic Play - fosters imagination and creativity. Sophisticated dramatic play (when children are highly engaged) develops personal skills fosters social and emotional wellbeing.



“There’s a birthday party but it’s not ready yet. You have to have an invitation, but there’s one for everyone.”



“We are playing dogs and pandas and bunnies!”

NATURE IS GOOD FOR ...

- Pre-writing skills - picking flowers and leaves (fine motor); crushing stones.
- Happiness -there is friendly bacteria in mud similar to serotonin in anti-depressant medications.
- Large muscle development - making marks with sticks in sand, dirt etc.



“If you connect with it (nature), you’ll love it. If you love it you’ll care about it.” *Richard Louv*



Alleviates stress and helps children to deal with adversity.
Greater exposure to nature = greater benefits!!