



Sustainability & Nature Play in Waverley Children's Services

By Michelle Carrick, 2021

Social Ecology

Social Ecology theory illustrates a worldview that is holistic in approach and responds to the world from an understanding of interdependence and ecological importance. Carrick, M. (2018)

Eco-Pedagogy

“the outdoors is multidimensional and complex...children encounter a world of connection, cooperation and competition”

“the sensory stimulating and information rich natural world...provoke the necessary response and critical tools that enable critical development and human intellect”.

Kellert, S. R. (2012). Birthright: People and nature in the modern world.



Ecological Identity

“time is intimacy”

“a handful of places known intimately trumps a multiplicity of places known superficially, when our goal is ecological identity”

Pelo, A. (2013). The Goodness of Rain: Developing an ecological identity in young children.

“the ritual place invites us to its living presence and we invite its living spirit into our presence”

Pryer, A. (2011). Embodied Wisdom: meditations on memoir and education.

Ecology & Outdoor Learning

- Care for Country Program
“Giving children time to meander, discover, observe, feel, and wonder - unhurried and in their own time...to take part in Caring for Country; looking after living things, animals, plants, the water, the air.”

Natalie Er – Early Learning Community
Engagement Teacher - 2021

Care for Country



“Zoe is familiar with the tapping sticks as we use them every week to sing our Care For Country song as a group. She is using them here to be part of the dancing and singing of the bigger group.”

Natalie Er – Early Learning Community Engagement Teacher 2021



Eco-pedagogy

- What can we do to show that we Care for Country?

“This is shown in routines that take place in the garden. Watering. Sharing harvests. Not taking more than is fair. Showing care to living things.”







Dadirri: the deep inner spring inside us

“In our Aboriginal way, we learnt to listen from our earliest days. We learnt by watching and listening, waiting and then acting.”

“There is nothing more important to what we are attending to. There is nothing more urgent that we must hurry away for.”

Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann AM (Senior Australian of the Year 2021).

Curiosity & Imagination

Observing and noticing is a skill that is fostered and encouraged, Clare Warden says, *“If children are going to look after the world, they live in they first need to be aware of it, to come to admire it and ultimately to care for it”*

Warden, C. (2012). The Potential of a Puddle.

“A family shared that their child “is able to see the smaller perspective in a bigger picture.”



Resilience

Everything is connected

Pace of nature – rhythms, cycles, energy

Endurance – highly intelligent system

Internal strength – patience, intuition, self expression

Perspective - more than human world

Thank you

**Waverley
Children &
Family Services**



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