

Creating a sense of belonging and agency through nature play

Sept 8, Adelaide Hills Convention Centre

Nature Play
SA

Connection • Wellbeing • Belonging

Nature play goes beyond play spaces – it addresses the needs of the whole child. It considers how we guide and foster student agency, connectedness, wellbeing, and belonging. This full-day workshop explores nature play at a much deeper level beyond physical spaces and examines what it means to ‘belong.’ It focuses on how we view children as capable and competent, how we design learning experiences with children, how to set up successful programs like bush kindy, and connections to Country. These elements form an important part of belonging.

Time	Session Program		
8.45am	Arrival (tea and coffee)		
9.00am	Acknowledgment of Country		
9:20am	Introductions <i>Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA</i>		
9.30am	Learner Agency <i>Lisa Burman</i> In this keynote, Lisa will draw on her recently published book, “A Culture of Agency: Fostering Engagement, Empowerment, Identity and Belonging in the Early Years”. From her ‘everyday research’ for writing the book, she has created a framework to help educators better understand and respond to these questions. Her keynote will outline the five core pillars of this framework, with a focus on rituals for belonging and identity in nature play, and how this is an important consideration in building an agentic culture of learning.		
10.30am	Morning Tea		
Building Knowledge (<i>sessions repeated</i>)			
10.50am to 11.30am & 11.35am to 12.25pm	Agents of change <i>Leeanne Munn</i> This session will explore agency through the lens of a successful bush kindy program.	Designing native gardens with students <i>Jason Tyndall + Uncle Tamaru</i> This workshop will explore the benefits of school gardens, how to involve students in design and what plant species to select. It will also look at bushfoods.	The Environment as the Third Teacher <i>Danielle Carr + Sara Delaney</i> Highlighting immersive beach-school and national park programs, this session explores how to use natural environments to impact student wellbeing and connection.
12.30pm	Lunch		
1.00pm to 1.50pm & 1.55pm to 2.45pm	Co-Creating Learning <i>Abe Moore + Jade McCarthy</i> This workshop explores how to co-create contextually meaningful, experiential learning experiences with students that impact whole communities.	Working with Fire - fire making <i>Cameron Edwards + Uncle Tamaru</i> This practical workshop will look risk and benefits of fire. It will take attendees through how to do 5 minute fires.	Children as Leaders <i>Green Adelaide</i> This workshop will look at how you can support children to create greener, cooler and wilder places at home or school/sites.
2.55pm	Wrap up <i>Jason Tyndall, Nature Play SA</i>		
3pm	Close		