



EXCURSION AND INCURSION INFORMATION PACK

NATURE IMMERSION

Wild Kindling provides opportunities for children to be immersed in the wonder and wisdom of nature, creating a deeper connection and belonging to the natural world around them. We offer both incursions and excursions where our nature leaders take the learning outdoors into natural spaces, encouraging discovery and building curiosity.

We do not just teach nature education, but more importantly help children build a deep nature connection, through engaging their nervous system and restoring their instinctive desire to connect with nature.

We use and embody the 8 Shields* mentoring approach as well as the nature-based learning cycle, to design and facilitate learning experiences. Our programs can be aligned with the Victorian School Curriculum and we provide opportunities to bring learning back into the classroom through practical, tailored examples of activities for teachers to continue engagement with students.

Sessions are designed to empower children in nature. We capture their natural passions such as playing games, asking questions, hearing stories, imitating others, and channel this into their learning. Through nature-based learning and play, children develop confidence, resilience and independence.

At the core of our learning, it is not just about the information that we deliver, but the interactions created between the child and the environment. We strongly encourage the children to observe, question and answer. Imagination is often more important than the correct answer. Children are encouraged to share their voices and findings with the group, creating a rich experience and additional level of immersion.

We inspire creativity through visualisation and the full use of the senses. Teaching responsible wildcrafting connects the children to nature in a direct way; it helps them understand the sources of materials for craft and food as well as the basics of sustainability.

We ensure children foster a sense of care and appreciation for our land, as how our children respond to nature now, will impact how they raise their own children and future generations.



*The 8 Shields mentoring approach, developed by Jon Young, refers to an eight direction cultural life map which can be used to guide us in understanding the patterns, cycles and energies of the natural world. Each direction has activities to guide us in connecting to ourselves, each other and the more-than-human-world.

INCURSIONS

Our nature-based incursions are designed to connect students (and teachers) to the natural world around them. Our sessions are designed to help children build a deeper connection to the land and empower belonging to place. We believe outdoor play and hands-on experiences are a vital part and prefer to use natural spaces within your school or centre to achieve this. We work closely with you to ensure your individual requirements and any particular topics are addressed during your incursion (i.e. linking to Victorian School Curriculum). Our promise is that learning will be made fun and impactful.

Incursions can range from a 1.5 hour session, to a 3 day program. Our experienced Nature Leader will attend your school or centre for the desired time to deliver your personalised content, adapted to different age groups from Foundation to Grade 6.

SHORT PROGRAM

Our short program is designed to run for approximately 1.5hrs for each class. We can accommodate multiple classes over the one day if required, each receiving the same information. It is recommended that a maximum of 25 students attend at any one time.

Example of short-program incursion timetable

8:45am Arrival / set up
9:15am Incursion class 1
10:45am School recess
11:15am Incursion class 2
12:45pm School lunch
1:30pm Incursion class 3
3:00pm Departure

FULL DAY PROGRAM

If you would like to extend your student's nature learning experience, we can design a program to run for the whole school day, timed around your existing snack and lunch breaks. This full-day program allows the students to gain a deeper connection to nature and a chance to build more meaningful connections. More extensive content is delivered and includes our nature craft program in the afternoon.

To accommodate multiple classes in the one year level, we can run the same program over different days in the same week. Should you like more than a one-day program, a specialised program can be created for your school or centre.



EXCURSIONS

FULL DAY & MULTI-DAY PROGRAMS

If you would like to further enhance your student's nature learning experience, we can design a program similar to our incursion offering, but at local parks and gardens. Our recommendation is for students to undertake two to three full day programs (see below), however single day programs are also available. Experience shows that when children return to the same place on multiple occasions, it encourages a deeper connection to nature, a chance to build more meaningful relationships and allows for more extensive, consecutive content delivery.

To accommodate multiple classes in the one year level, we can run the same program over different dates throughout the term.

We use the Nature-Based Learning Cycle to ensure activities are appropriately scheduled throughout the day. This ensures that children receive the best learnings at the best times of the day to help embed connection.

We remain as flexible as we can to help accommodate your school's or centre's individual needs, and the needs of the children. Wherever they can be immersed in nature is wonderful, however, offsite locations add a certain depth which emphasises learnings and excitement.

Example of a full day excursion timetable

8:45am Student arrival
9:00am Welcome & intro
9:15am Unstructured play
9:45am Core learning and discovery
10:30am Morning tea and play
11:00am Core learning and discovery
12:30pm Lunch and play
1:00pm Nature craft
2:00pm Reflection and sharing stories
2:30pm Nature games and activities
3:00pm Student departure

Our 2-day and 3-day programs incorporate the same concepts as in the full day program, however creates a deeper bond with a particular place, where students feel increasingly more comfortable within nature and feel a sense of being a part of nature. This in turn helps promote mental and physical wellbeing.

In our multi-day programs, we support teachers to take learning outdoors by providing practical, tailored examples of activities. We help identify learning possibilities that reach beyond the individual sessions themselves and connect with curriculum and content being explored back in the classroom.

Note: programs can be designed as a mix of Incursions and Excursions and have part of the day onsite, with another part at a local park (if within walking distance).



ACTIVITIES

Our activities provide children with the time, space and resources to explore the natural world. In our full day programs, more of the learning is child-led and incorporates dedicated unstructured play time. We encourage the children to play independently whilst they explore the trees, build a cubby house, make stick creatures and so much more. We will always ensure children are fully supervised and that they are being safe.



Dependent on your chosen program and the age of the children, incursions and excursions can include (but not limited to) the following topics:

Core Learning: topic which aligns to current Victorian Curriculum (e.g. Features of Places)

Nature Discovery: unstructured time for the children to explore and use their imagination in the surrounding nature space; use natural resources to build huts, fairy gardens and more.

Nature Craft: use foraged natural resources and recycled materials to create a variety of nature craft (crafts can be seasonal and related to current curriculum).

Nature Journaling: sit spot practice, reflection of day in nature, sharing with peers.

Scavenger Hunt: explore and identify local area and flora and fauna.

Nature Nick Names: creating a connection between humans and animals.

Nature Games: choice of a variety of nature based games, dependent on location.

Survivor: learn the basics of survival in the bush whilst making survival shelters, foraging for local bush tucker and getting camouflaged for a group game (additional fee required).

Basket Weaving: learn the art of basket weaving and create your own small trinket basket using provided materials (addition fee required).

Once children have been a part of our program, we can tailor further programs in future years to continue their learning. Our initial 'Explorer' program develops into our 'Adventurer' program and further into our 'Discovery' program, each of which encourage deeper connections to nature and belonging to place. Please contact us if you require further information.



LOCATIONS

Wild Kindling is based in Frankston South and has full-day excursions built around the following locations:



Overport Park, Frankston South

Great location for hut building, bush tucker nature walk, waterways learning and creek discovery, nature games, bird watching and more.

Lorikeet Reserve, Mt Eliza

Great location for nature walks, plant discovery, climbing trees, learning about land formation, bird watching



YMCA Camp Manyung, Mornington (subject to availability)

Great location for bush cooking, bush discovery, nature craft, orienteering, nature games
(note: this location incurs an additional cost)

Canadian Bay Beach (Term 1 and 4 only)

Great location for beach discovery and waterways learning



If you want to book an excursion outside of the above locations, additional costs apply for travel and site selection. Incursions will only incur additional cost if more than 30km from Frankston South.

INVESTMENT

SESSION COSTS

All sessions will be invoiced for a minimum of 20 children.

For a combination of programs not listed, please contact us for a custom quote.

INCURSIONS

SHORT PROGRAM

\$10 per child
(min. cost \$200)

1 DAY PROGRAM

\$30 per child
(min. cost \$600)

2 DAY PROGRAM

\$60 per child
(min. cost \$1200)

EXCURSIONS

1 DAY PROGRAM

\$30 per child
(min. cost \$600)

2 DAY PROGRAM

\$60 per child
(min. cost \$1,200)

3 DAY PROGRAM

\$75 per child
(min. cost \$1,500)



Please note: If your school or centre is outside this area and you are wanting to book an excursion, additional costs apply for travel and site selection. Incursions will only incur additional cost if more than 30km from Frankston South.

PREPARING FOR NATURE IMMERSION

WHAT TO PACK

As we highly encourage children to climb, dig, explore and play, it is also important for them to not have to worry about getting dirty. Please read the following list and ensure children are prepared for all weather!

- closed toe shoes (gumboots if rainy weather)
- spare pair of shoes (to change into if get wet)
- spare socks (to change into if get wet)
- change of pants and jumper (to change into if get wet)
- long pants or leggings (eliminates scratches and helps keep warm)
- plastic bag (for wet clothing)
- rain jacket
- warm jumper
- sunscreen
- mosquito repellent
- drink bottle filled with water
- snacks and lunch for the day ('nude food' if possible)

As the saying goes, "There's no bad weather, just bad clothing".



FURTHER INFORMATION

LOCATION

Each location has adequate car parking for student drop off and pick up. In some locations, our 'nature base' will be a short walk from the car park. We will explore different parts of the site during the day. If any child is required to be collected early, please notify our Nature Leader who can ensure parents are aware of location at the appropriate time.

TOILETS

Public toilets are available at all excursion sites. Wild Kindling staff will ensure toilets are clean and appropriate to use before children arrive. Children will not be left unsupervised at any time during toilet visits. Please note: 'bush wees' are not permitted in any of our sites, unless under urgent circumstances.

SUPERVISION

It is the responsibility of the school or centre to ensure that their children are supervised at all times. During excursions, sites might be used by the public so it is expected that children behave appropriately to ensure an enjoyable day for everyone. We recommend that teachers and any other volunteers encourage questioning rather than direct instructions. This allows children to think more deeply and use their imagination. We also ask, where possible, that supervisors observe more than intervene which encourages children's independence and creativity. Of course, if children are breaching safety guidelines and behaving inappropriately, intervention is expected.

PARENT HELPERS

For any full day or multi day program, we encourage parent helpers to join. Any volunteer is required to have a current Working With Children Check and it is the school's supervisory team's responsibility to ensure this is sighted.

BAG STORAGE

Children are encouraged to bring all of their belongings in a backpack. We will provide a dedicated space for bags and in the event of wet weather, will have a tarp shelter or gazebo. We recommend children do not bring valuables as at times bags are left unattended as we explore in nature.

ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

It is the responsibility of the school or centre to provide adequate supervision during children's arrival and departure, keeping in mind that car parks may be used by other members of the public. Wild Kindling Nature Leaders will ensure there is an appropriate place for children to gather whilst waiting for classmates to arrive. Once all children are present, we will move to our 'nature base'. If any child is required to be picked up early, please inform our Nature Leader to confirm the location that students will be at the required time.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WEATHER CONDITIONS

We are an 'all weather' program meaning that a bit of rain or wind will not stop us from exploring in nature, as long as it is safe. Students attending should be prepared for all weather and bring adequate clothing. A shelter will be erected if heavier rain is predicted as a place to gather, however, we will always encourage children to continue playing even in the rain. It is likely children will get wet / muddy no matter what the season so please ensure spare clothes and shoes are packed.

SEVERE WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In the event of a severe weather forecast, the safety of all participants is paramount, which may result in the session being cancelled (the day before). In this event, you will be offered the chance to reschedule (dependent on availability), or we will offer you a credit towards another session.

FIRST AID

Your school's or centre's staff are responsible for children's first aid requirements. It is highly recommended that your school or centre carry their own first aid kit at all times during the excursion. Basic first aid supplies and assistance are available from Wild Kindling Nature Leaders if necessary.

INSURANCE

Wild Kindling has \$10 million Public Liability Insurance with QBE Insurance.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Wild Kindling encourages teachers and volunteers to take photos of students during their nature immersion. It is a wonderful way to create memories and display in the classroom. By booking an excursion with Wild Kindling, the school accepts that photography and videos may be taken of their students and used for marketing purposes. It is the school's responsibility to inform Nature Leaders if there are any students whose photos can not be used by us.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The minimum program charge is for 20 participants. You may bring less children than this on any particular day, however, you will still be charged for a minimum of 20 participants.

PAYMENT

An invoice will be emailed to you upon commencement of the chosen program. Payment is required within two weeks.



TO MAKE YOUR BOOKING, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

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