

Secrets to amazing nature spaces for children



So, you want to create an outdoor space for children which is exciting, educational, long-lasting and beautiful to look at?

Here are our secrets on how to create a high quality space to connect children with nature



1. Start with the end

Know your objective. What is it you want to achieve? Use this knowledge to test each element of the design.



2. Think carefully

Plan thoroughly. Be clear about your budget, know your guiding regulations and who you need to involve. Plan in stages if required.



3. Risk it

Meticulous risk analysis and risk mitigation are critical. But weigh up the negatives with the good things that come from challenging experiences for children. Seek advice from the experts (like Kidsafe WA and Nature Play WA) on how to navigate the fear-factor and achieve the right balance.

4. Ask the kids

Talk to kids and their adults about what they would like.



5. Do your housekeeping

Toilets, parking, bins, fences, access, signage and safety might all seem a bit ho-hum, but addressing these practicalities is essential.



6. Look ahead

Take a long term view. How will this look in five or ten years' time? How will the plants grow? Plan for the maintenance that will be needed to keep it safe and looking great.



1. Go native

Western Australian plants are some of the most diverse on the planet. Celebrate our native flora in your plant selection to immerse children in our unique natural environment.



2. Less is more

Let nature speak for itself. Don't be tempted to add too many built features. Problem-solving and imaginative play will come to the fore.



3. Value quality

Make everything the best quality you can. Be creative. Use beautiful materials and designs. Add quality elements as you can afford them. Think of the project in budget phases if required. Quality doesn't always mean expensive. It's about careful, creative thought and use of available resources.



4. Mimic nature

Natural materials sourced locally reflect your sense of place. Rocks, pebbles, timber, seashells and, of course, plants. Use the shapes and textures of nature to inspire built elements of your design.



5. Open your arms

Plan for different personality types, ages, abilities and interests in your design. Make room for rowdy, active play and quiet, peaceful places.



6. Be cool

Shade is very important. Selecting a site with mature trees is ideal. Kids also love water play more than just about anything. Water quality and water safety need to be considered.



Learn more www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/kings-park/area/naturescape

