



THE  
NATURE  
SCHOOL

Welcome to...



Early Years

# Early Years Bush Skills Program

## What is it?

The Nature School Early Years Bush Skills program is for young children aged 3-5 years, and operates completely outdoors. Each term has a set program and set of skills to be focused on, based on seasonal aspects and taking into account the children's ability at the time.

These skills can include:

- Shelter building
- Knot tying and lashings
- Tool use, including peelers, whittling knives, hand drills and saws
- Fauna and Flora identification
- Fire safety, skills and campfire cooking
- Orienteering and navigating in the bush
- Bush walking and navigating difficult terrain such as rocks, tree climbing etc
- Art and craft using natural resources such as weaving, nature paints, clay construction, natural dyes etc



# Early Years

## Bush Skills Program

*What is it?*

Program Instructors foster each child's skill building and incidentally, their holistic development. The program facilitates children's growth as confident and competent young individuals by giving them the opportunity to make their own choices, cultivating their curiosity and expanding independent thinking.



## Session details

# Early Years Bush Skills Program

## When?

**Monday-Thursday:** 9am- 3pm

**Friday:** 9am-12pm

Programs operate during NSW state school terms

## Where?

Sessions operate from a variety of bushland settings within 5-20 minutes of Port Macquarie. Locations will be provided once you are in touch with the team. Each weekday will remain in the same location for the duration of the term unless there is an extreme weather warning. The Nature School has permits with a variety of stakeholders such as local landowners, and the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.



## Session Details

# Early Years Bush Skills Program

## Program Fees

**Full Day (9am-3pm):** \$83 per day

**Half Day (9am-12pm):** \$55 per day

**Administration Fee:** \$120 at enrolment

Sessions are invoiced per term.

## Payments

We recognise that upfront payment of fees can be difficult for some families, so we do offer a fortnightly payment plan for term fees if requested. It is our hope that this will make our program more accessible for all families. For further information on fees and payment, please contact our Business Manager, Karen, at [karen@tns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:karen@tns.nsw.edu.au).



## *Frequently asked questions*



There is a Norwegian saying, which is often referred to in forest schools: "There's no bad weather, only bad clothing". If it is raining, children must come dressed appropriately, with a rain jacket, gumboots and weatherproof pants, so we are able to have plenty of fun out in the rain! Facilitators and children will erect a shelter together when needed, where everyone can stay dry for meals, rest, circle time and if we just need to have a break from the rain.

# *What happens if it rains?*

# Frequently asked questions

## What should my child bring?

- Healthy morning tea, lunch & snacks
- Water
- Closed in shoes (no ballet slippers, thongs or crocs)
- Long lightweight pants and shirt.
- Wet gear - rain jacket, pants and gumboots
- 2 sets of spare clothes and spare set of shoes

## Is my child ready?

The Nature School program is very different to regular children's programs. There are a few things that children need to be comfortable with before joining the program. This ensures the safety of your child, and of others.

1. Ability to listen to and follow instructions.
2. Is independent in toileting and not having regular accidents.

We recommend that children who still need a midday rest attend our 3hr session initially.





Ready to join  
the adventure?

For more  
information  
head to our  
website.

For enquiries,  
contact  
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au

[www.thenatureschool.org.au](http://www.thenatureschool.org.au)