

'My Outdoor Classroom' Teacher Resource

The Value of Play

Lower & Upper Primary

Introduction

Both versions of the 'My Outdoor Classroom Nature Passport' booklet (Lower and Upper Primary) have a section called "The Value of Play".

Have a class discussion about the importance of play, then ask your students to answer the questions in the booklet. You can refer back to this page when completing the 'My Outdoor Classroom Nature Passport' booklet activities.

Tips and Tricks

Questions to ask the class:

- Why is play important to you?
- What is play? (Together or alone? Inside or outside? Sitting down, or moving? Imaginative or organised? Structured or unstructured? Which is best? (BALANCE!)
- How do you feel when playing? (Happy? Sense of belonging? Sense of self? Confident? Inquisitive? Engrossed? Healthy?)
- What skills can you develop through play? (Creativity, resilience, negotiating risk, language, problem solving, self awareness, compromise, fine and gross motor skills etc.)
- What cooperative behaviours do you need when playing with others? (Sharing, respect, negotiation, understanding of other's feeling etc.)

Elaboration/Extension Ideas

- Write key words and phrases that students come up with onto a poster/s. Either as a class, in groups or individually, ask students to develop a play statement.
- You can refer back to this play statement and any cooperative behaviours discussed when completing the 'My Outdoor Classroom Nature Passport' booklet activities.

- **Example play statement:**

In <_____> (class name) we believe in the value of play. When we are playing we are learning how to work together, take turns, solve problems, be creative, compromise, stand up for ourselves and negotiate risk.

