

Forest Kindergarten Day



Every Friday, Pohutukawa, Rimu and Kowhai groups cheerfully walk up the zigzag to spend the morning in the school Pine Forest. Nature is out there and we are with Nature... we cannot take the child-nature connection for granted! Many children are getting more and more isolated from that natural environment and our Forest Kindergarten Day is giving our children the opportunity to learn in and from nature. We are very lucky to have a Pine Forest so accessible to us... and it smells soooo good.

As much as possible this new environment is helping children to improvise, testing their coordination and physical limits. They are able to climb fallen trees, watch toadstools grow. They can listen to the different birds, discover new shoots, shadows and so much more! They chase each other, play games, build things and shelters; they lie down on the ground and look up at the trees and when looking at the sky, they sometimes discover clouds with shapes of dragons or rabbits, castles or sailing boats. We can sand down pine cones to then create hedgehogs... we can use branches and other treasures found in the pine forest to do weaving...



Play is a fundamental activity of childhood; play is a force that allows children to grow in every area of their being, a foundation for ALL their learning and allows them to explore every aspect of life. Combined with this educational approach to outdoor free playing and self-directing learning, children are allowed to develop freedom and choice in order to become competent and effective adults using nature as the teacher. It is long term sustain approach to outdoor learning, providing children with a holistic development. Research show that this experiences especially benefited girls as they are physically more self-confident and tougher than other girls without this opportunity.

“Children’s play is connected with an inner force of liberation, endowing the playing child with a feeling of well-being and happiness...playing is a liberating experience to children, making them eager to release this activity...freeing, joyful, and eager to be released, this is the character of the child’s play”. Rudolf Steiner.

Fabiana, June 2013



Learning experiences offered:

The children are learning to perceive themselves as competent and confident explorers and able to make discoveries. They are also developing their ability to represent their discoveries using creative and expressive media.

Children are learning how to keep physically healthy, increase their control over their bodies, including their locomotor skills. They are also learning that trying things out, exploration and curiosity are important and deeply valued.

Children are experiencing the openness and freedom of the outdoors and the close connection to nature and the seasons.