

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tree change for local kindy

A Beaconsfield kindergarten is taking children into the 'bush' to ensure they stay connected with nature and the culture of indigenous Australians.

C&K Beaconsfield Community Kindy is the latest to join the 'forest kindy' community and all the educators at the kindy are trained in the educational approach.

Kindy Director Jenni Radloff says the children love it.

"Some of our children have never had these kinds of experiences and the change in them has been incredible as they take part in a range of challenging outdoor adventures."

The kindy introduced the forest kindergarten program recently, and has started extended visits to the forest area of the adjacent school.

Jenni Radloff says the immersion in nature enriches children's learning and connects them in a very practical way to the environment.

"We have a strong relationship with Beaconsfield School and the forest kindy program is further extended by the school in their Future Forest science curriculum learning.

"As an extension on our learning about Aboriginal culture, we recently built a humpy in the forest using branches and leaves from the surrounding bush.

"The children have also planted bush tucker trees in the kindy grounds and the forest for plant-a-tree day.

"Forest kindy time is without a doubt their favourite kindy activity."

The forest kindergarten program is underpinned by child-led learning that builds confidence, self-esteem and independence.

Jenni says nature play is not something most adults had to think about when they were children, but times are changing and there is a real need to actively encourage children to spend time away from their screens and in nature.

The forest kindergarten education can be linked to the Australian National Curriculum and Early Years Learning Framework. The program will be discussed at C&K Beaconsfield's upcoming **Open Week Event on 6 September 2017** at the kindy.

<https://www.candk.asn.au/openweek>

C&K is Queensland's largest, not-for-profit early childhood education and care provider and has a proud history of educating and caring for Queensland children for over a century. C&K manages a range of early childhood education and care services including kindergartens and childcare services. C&K services use the teaching guidelines Building waterfalls- a curriculum developed specially for C&K and recognised internationally. The C&K philosophy values inclusion and supports children with special needs, and from culturally-diverse backgrounds.