Nairne Primary School

Nature Playspace

An eat well be active - Primary Schools project school

Our thanks go to Bluearth for this article from their Newsletter 2013

Nairne Primary School, (located on the outskirts of a town in the Adelaide Hills), is a school has that has grown significantly in numbers in the past few years. As a result of this, many play areas have been taken over by classroom buildings – due to this the school has identified a need for new and innovative play spaces throughout the Pre-School and R-7 grounds.

A natural curiosity some students had about an out of bounds area encouraged the school to open it up while finding ways to maintain it's natural state as much as possible. Recycling materials used in the construction has made the playspaces relevant to the natural environment and helped with the cost. The school is excited about the many opportunities the natural playspaces will offer it's students. The uneven, odd shaped, rough textures of the natural play space objects offers opportunities:

- To promote children's awareness of nature and an appreciation of their environment
- To provide opportunities for children to use their imagination and creativity while using natural structures and materials
- For "safe" risk taking, allowing children to make decisions about having a go and how they progress from one piece of equipment to the next based on their confidence of their own movement skills and progression of their own abilities
- For children to be active, develop balance and coordination skills and improve fitness in new ways
- For cooperative play and to build relationships through cubby building and sharing of equipment and natural materials to build structures
- To explore connections with well being and nature
Along with the variety of textures the natural playspace offers Nairne PS plans to incorporate objects and equipment which is aesthetically pleasing for other senses; visual arts objects, taste/smell through herb plant selection, music/sound structures into their play spaces. In designing the play spaces the school has been mindful to cater for all types of children, the very active needing to burn energy, the social, the creative, the quieter solitary children, and those with special needs. The outdoor natural playspace offers something for everyone and offers a great space to explore Bluearth through Moving in the Environment, stillness, challenges and games.

dl.0306_info@schools.sa.edu.au

eat well be active - Primary Schools Project, a joint SA Health and Department for Education and Child Development project from 2008-2013.