

# The WEE NIPPERS

A monthly column about  
learning for parents and  
caregivers of pre-schoolers.

## Years

## Nature and Sensory Learning

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### Nature and learning

Children learn more when they spend quality time in amongst nature. By providing children with sensory-rich playscapes that are full of surprises, enticing scents, changing surfaces, challenges, and different textures, we open the doors to a world of discovery. Children aren't just playing, they are finding out how the world works.

Learning can come from collecting sticks and leaves, noticing insects in the garden, watering plants, picking flowers, riding bikes on gravel or tricky paths and exploring what we might consider are typical outdoor fun activities.

This is what fun memories and knowledge are made of. While to children this is just what you do outdoors, this type of exploring is vital problem-solving, where they gain a fun sense of accomplishment and are introduced to the joys of exploration.

Giving children the gift of a well-designed playground or regularly engaging in the outdoors, just helps them discover treasures. So next time you're outdoors, enjoy 'noticing and collecting' — who knows what treasure you and your child might discover!

### Creative sensory learning

Adults ask, "I'm not a great drawer or painter, so am I 'creative'?" For children, creativity isn't the product but the process: inventing, experimenting, growing, making mistakes, having fun and engaging our senses!

It's said that sensory awareness can teach kids to connect experiences to words and heighten the brain power in children. Sensory learning is a perfect way for children and adults to engage in creativity.

At Wee Nippers we might fill a bin or pot with lots of items that stimulate the senses, such as cinnamon sticks, uncooked beans, dried bark, feathers, flowers and herbs, fabrics or crunched paper. On other days it can be all natural resources with smells of the ocean. (Just be careful of choking hazards, especially if you do this with very young children.)

**Next month: Careful Communication and Challenging Behaviour**

Advertorial

# WEE NIPPERS

## Early Childhood Centre

**Pre-enrolment visits welcome**

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