

Cottonwood Learning – Nature Play Educator Role

We are looking to expand our team with nature enthusiasts, so if you enjoy nature this program is for you!

Cottonwood Learning is an all weather outdoor nature play program based on self directed play and inquiry learning. Children are given opportunities for deep play and nature immersion which fosters growth in body, mind and spirit. We aim to help children build resilience, connection and environmental stewardship through adventure and nature immersion programs. We are essentially a bush kindy program and offer Drop off sessions for families on southern Gold Coast (Currumbin & Elanora). We predominantly run programs for children aged 3-6, with extension programs in Homeschool and Playgroup.

A place where children make memories of jumping in puddles, climbing trees, looking for bugs, making potions, using real tools, constructing bushcraft and creations with nature. A time for imagination, getting muddy, rolling down hills, building cubby houses and making new adventures every day.

Key Job Responsibilities include;

- Plan, prepare and reflect on environmental education programs that support children's wellbeing and learning journey.
- Facilitate child-led inquiry based nature immersion programs for young children.
- Ensure safety practices are implemented.
- Build nurturing relationships with children and families.
- Collaborate with team and community partners.

Qualifications:

- Qualification in Early Childhood (or alternatively Outdoor Rec, Education Support etc)
- A current First Aid, CPR, Asthma and Anaphylaxis Certificate
- A current blue card
- Drivers Licence

Skill set:

- Have a passion and interest in nature and Bush Kindy learning.
- Understanding of how to facilitate holistic child led play and learning outdoors.
- Have well-developed communication and empathy skills and be able to remain calm in all types of scenarios.
- Initiative, resourcefulness and flexibility.
- A playful disposition ready for adventure and don't mind getting muddy!

Physical Requirements :

- Willingness and ability to spend significant time outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Willing to be exposed to fire, smoke, water, and outdoor risks, which may include exposure to varying temperatures, weather, ticks and other hazards
- Be physically fit and capable to navigate the unpredictability of the outdoor environment and manage the resources required in the program.

How you will be assessed

Within the context of the role described above, the ideal applicant will be someone who has the following key capabilities:

Relationship Building: friendly, warm, and approachable nature. Ability to network, build and maintain healthy, positive, mutually respectful and beneficial relationships with children, families, sponsors and industry partners.

Teamwork: Demonstrates a team orientation and spirit to build and maintain co-operative and productive relationships. Observes appropriate reporting structure. A demonstrated ability and affinity to work within a team to achieve program objectives and organisational goals within required timeframes.

Program Leadership: Demonstrates an understanding of how to facilitate holistic, child-led learning. Shows critical and creative thinking. Has a love of the outdoors and nature.

Oral, written communication: Understood when communicating orally. Listens actively and encourages further communication. Writes with professional flair, with a clear purpose using appropriate language.

Initiative: Demonstrates self-reliance and resourcefulness, is pro-active, and anticipates developments. Can work unsupervised.

Dependability: Can be relied upon to meet deadlines. Consistently punctual and regular in attendance. Effectively follows up on tasks. Fulfils all commitments.

Flexibility: Appropriately changes approaches to situations to achieve a desired result. Have energy and resilience.

Empathy: Recognises and responds appropriately to the needs and feelings of others, particularly families who are marginalised.

Social Justice: A commitment to the principles of social justice, access and equity for disadvantaged families.

Advocacy: A proven capacity to work with and advocate for children and families

Cottonwood Learning will provide:

- Free Professional Development training
- Family friendly work environment
- Wellbeing support
- Flexible work commitment
- Long term employment

JOB DESCRIPTION

Nature Play Mentor

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| Program | Nature Kindy |
| Location | South East QLD |
| Classification | Miscellaneous Award 6-18 hours per week (Choice of 1-3 days a week) |
| Job Type | Perm Part Time (Or Casual Positions) |
| Salary Range | Ranging between \$27-\$34 per hour ppt (approx. \$35-\$42 casual) depends on quals As per Miscellaneous Award <i>Plus superannuation contributions of up to 11% of your annual salary.</i> |

Your employer

Cottonwood Learning facilitates play based learning experiences for children in supported yet unstructured outdoor spaces across South East Queensland, Australia.

We believe that children deserve the freedom to play, explore and take reasonable risks.

We aim to help children build resilience, connection and environmental stewardship through adventure and nature immersion programs.

Your role

To implement the Nature Kindy Program in line with the Cottonwood Learning philosophy and nature pedagogy approach.

Key Duties & Responsibilities

As a Nature Play Educator you will have responsibility for the following:

- Facilitate child-led nature immersion programs for children aged 0 – 12 years
- Facilitate positive and developmentally appropriate play experiences and interactions within the Cottonwood Learning policies and procedures.
- Plan and implement an environmental education-based program through child led play and inquiry based learning founded on nature pedagogy.
- Observe and assess children's progress. Collaborate with parents and team members to extend children's learning through planning and working towards children's individual goals as well as group goals for the program.
- Create an engaging and adventurous play environment that supports safe risk taking, independence, problem solving and fosters resilience.
- Be adaptable and flexible in planning and implementing session in response to the varying/changing needs of children and the environment.
- Document and share learning with families verbally and through online program.
- Ensure the highest levels of supervision, health and safety are implemented and maintained at all times.
- Engage in assessments of safety of site, activities and equipment.
- Clean and maintain equipment and resources as required within the program.

- Practice culturally sensitive and inclusive practices to enhance engagement of families in programs and services.
- Develop connection with children, nurturing their curiosity and expanding their skillset and overall development.
- Maintain ethical environmental practices and environmental stewardship.
- Foster children's passion for learning and support them to build knowledge about local flora and fauna.
- Build and maintain positive relationships with families, co-workers and community partners.
- Participate in staff meetings and trainings that support your work role.
- To be aware of and comply with all Cottonwood Learning policies and procedures.
- Assist in reviewing policies, procedures, program practices and using reflection as a tool for continual improvement.