

November 2008



Media release

Getting your children into playing with nature

Summer holidays are over and the chances are that the children have spent a great deal of time playing in the garden.

Did they get the most of it? Did you encourage them to experiment with digging, learn about the bugs in the garden, or work out which plants smell good, bad or plain horrid?

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne is running a special workshop for parents called **Nature play and your child** on Friday 27 February between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

The workshop will be led by RBG teacher Chris Joy who is well known for the role she played in the design of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden and, in particular, how design, scents, shapes and texture plays a part in stimulating a child's imagination, creativity, learning and enjoyment of the natural world.

Chris Joy said: "The workshop is about getting parents to see the garden through a child's eye.

"What can you make with stones, for instance, or which tree or shrub is perfect for a cubby? Why is a picnic on the grass so much more fun than at a table?"

The workshop includes discussion about the value of 'free' and structured play, hands-on experiences designed to support parents in their role to encourage children in nature-based play, and an exploration of the play potential of the plants and landscapes in the Ian Potter Foundation's Children.

Nature play and your child

Friday 27 February
10.30am and 12.30pm.

\$10 Adults; \$8 Concession

Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate

Bookings required. Tel: (03) 9252 2429

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