

Bush School

"Let the little ones play in the open air;
let them listen to the songs of the birds
and learn the love of God as expressed in
His beautiful works!" EGW CG. pg 301



There are many benefits of learning in an outdoor environment. Weekly exposure to Bush School allows students the opportunity to engage in open-ended, diverse and meaningful learning that are connected to God's creation and aspects of the curriculum.

**Adapted from the Nature Play SA (NPSA) Learning Outdoors handbook.*

Authentic learning and independent thinking

Hands-on experiences and open ended communication fosters rich and meaningful learning. As a result this allows for more complex and self-directed lines of inquiry and observation from the students.

Social skills and relationships

Children gravitate towards common interests and as a result interact with peers who they might not normally in the classroom. It allows for a greater sense of cooperation, encouragement of each other, ability to compromise and negotiate, problem solve and take risks more readily. They develop a stronger sense of belonging to their Gilson College community in this environment.

Confidence

Being at Bush School isn't just for the physically capable students. In this environment, every child can find a sense of mastery at a level they are confident with.

Literacy and Numeracy Skills

The rich interactions students have at Bush School encourage development of oral language and vocabulary. This environment also allows students to experience and explore concepts of numbers, patterns measurement, spatial awareness, data, reasoning, counting and mathematical thinking.

Physical Development and Wellbeing

Fine and gross motor skills, core-strength, coordination, balance and physical endurance are all enhanced when the students engage in the diversity of experiences in an outdoor learning environment such as Bush School.

Decreased Anxiety and Negative Behaviours

The more time children spend outdoors, the more relaxed and less anxious they become.

Appreciation for God's Creation

"For the first eight or ten years of a child's life, the field or garden is the best schoolroom...Nature the best lesson book" Ellen G. White - Education. Ch 23.