



Noisy by Nature

IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD EXCURSION SUPPORT MATERIALS



Photographer: David Clode

From birds to possums, frogs, rats, bees and flowers! Our backyards, balconies and streets are full of surprising sights and sounds! Neighbourhood walks can support children's sense of belonging by meaningfully engaging with people and places in their local community.

BEFORE YOU GO

Listen to episodes from [Noisy by Nature](#) featuring wildlife found in suburban environments and towns throughout Australia. Expand children's knowledge and nurture curiosity through conversation and questioning that provokes thinking e.g. 'Did you notice ...?', 'Have you seen ...?' or 'I wonder if ...?'. Encourage children to pose their own questions for further investigation, using their interests and questions as a starting point for effective inquiry-based learning.

Be inspired by the [Croaking Green Tree Frogs](#) episode featuring sounds of a local neighbourhood - carolling currawongs, bikes whooshing past and frogs calling from an outdoor toilet!

Share relevant children's literature to extend joint investigations, with a focus on researching how some native animals have been forced to adapt their habitats due to urban development. For example, Brushtail Possums often live inside the roofs of people's houses because of de-forestation. Some suggested picture books about wildlife found in many Australian backyards include:

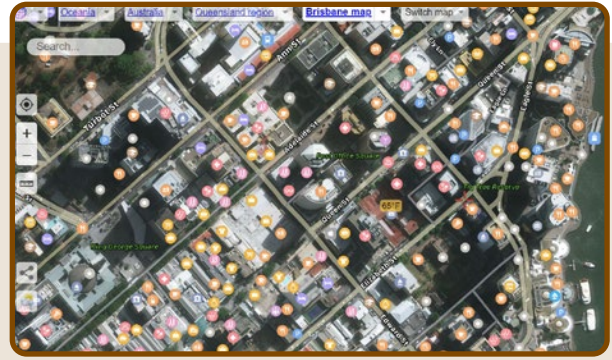
- 'Backyard Birds' (2020) by Helen Milroy
- 'The Little Corroboree Frog' (2013) by Tracey Holton-Ramirez & Angela Ramirez
- 'Backyard' (2018) by Ananda Braxton-Smith & Lizzy Newcomb



IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

EXCURSION SUPPORT MATERIALS

Look at satellite maps of the local neighbourhood area together online and plan a safe walking route with children, supporting their developing sense of agency (**NQS Element 1.2.3 'Child directed learning'**). Encourage children to draw a map of the planned excursion path, identifying local landmarks and places to stop along the way e.g. park, flower gardens, large trees, creek, shops and/or people's homes. Involve families in the excursion by organising to visit their place of work in the local community e.g. fire station or library (**NQS 6.2 'Collaborative partnerships'**).



WHILE YOU ARE THERE

Every neighbourhood walk is an opportunity for children to learn about the natural world!

Encourage children to use their senses while walking around the local community – hearing the wind blow, feeling a pile of autumn leaves, listening to different bird sounds, tasting edible plants and watching busy insects. Invite children to take photos of things that interest them along the way to inform follow-up programming ideas (**NQS Element 1.1.2 'Child-Centred'**).

Consider using your device to record some of the sounds children notice. This shouldn't be the main focus of your outing as documenting can sometimes detract from enjoying the moment, however gathering some recordings and photos will help children recall aspects of the outing when you return.

Suggest searching for living creatures by looking for clues – footprints, noises, holes in



trees, nests, ant hills etc. Listen for rustling bushes, flapping wings or croaking sounds. Make use of spontaneous teachable moments to extend children's learning while out and about in your neighbourhood, by modelling mathematical / scientific language and concepts (**NQS Element 1.2.2 'Responsive teaching and scaffolding'**). As always, remind children to respect the habitats of all living things and maintain a safe distance.



Visit public gardens and parks in your local community with plenty of nectar-rich flowers to attract butterflies. Encourage children to notice differences in butterfly shape and wingspan, as well as patterns and colours on the wings. Introduce new vocabulary by naming different parts of the insect's anatomy. Use open-ended questioning to encourage children to be curious about the natural world and express a hypotheses for the life cycle of butterflies (*EYLF Learning Outcome 4: 'Children are confident and involved learners'*).

WHEN YOU GET BACK

Recall and reflect on the sounds and sights of nature in your local area. If you collected photos and/or audio recordings, use them to prompt discussion.

If you were lucky enough to spot any butterflies on your neighbourhood walk, you could follow-up by reading *'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'* by Eric Carle. This is a great way to begin investigating the life cycle of a butterfly. Set up a butterfly discovery area in your room and scaffold children's learning through an immersive project into metamorphosis.

Encourage children to document the stages of metamorphosis by drawing the different stages of the life cycle and recording it with time-lapse digital photography; egg > caterpillar > chrysalis > butterfly. Invite children to create a 3D representation of a caterpillar cocoon (chrysalis) using wrapped wool around white sponge.

Learn more about Australian insects with ABC Kids Listen *Soundwalks: Rainforest Sounds*, look for relevant episodes of *'I'm Creepy Crawly'* on ABC iview, or watch Play School 'Through The Windows', *Garden Bugs* via the [Sustainability and Nature](#) Curriculum Area of the ABC Kids Early Education site.





My Noisy by Nature field trip IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD



Print this sheet then invite children to add their drawings, words and stories to each box.

While I was walking in my neighbourhood, I could HEAR, SEE, TOUCH and SMELL ...

