



# Noisy by Nature

## AT THE BEACH

### EXCURSION SUPPORT MATERIALS



*From shells and seagulls to crabs, sand, rocks, water and seaweed! Beach Kindy programs allow children to feel a special connection with these powerful environments and fragile ecosystems. If you can, explore the beach often and help create a generation who care deeply about the health of our oceans and Australia's coastal landscapes.*

## BEFORE YOU GO

Listen to episodes from [Noisy by Nature](#) featuring Australian animal life found in beach environments. 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.

The [Fluffing Elephant Seals](#) episode engages children in learning about the coastal environment on Macquarie Island. Listen to descriptions of the pebbly beach landscape, waves crashing and weird noises made by Elephant Seals! Educators can use the many fascinating facts shared about these mammals and their habitat as preparation for an excursion to a nearby beach.



1 Early Childhood Australia (ECA). (2017). STEM in early childhood education.



# AT THE BEACH

## EXCURSION SUPPORT MATERIALS

Share a range of relevant children's literature highlighting the characteristics of a beach and the plants, land/ sea animals that depend on it for survival. Some suggested picture books to engage children in discussions about coastal environments include:

- *'A Trip to the Beach'* (2019) by Gwyn Perkins
- *'Magic Beach'* (2004) by Alison Lester
- *'Bluey: The Beach'* (2019)



## WHILE YOU ARE THERE

While walking together along the beach, encourage children to use nature's resources to initiate learning while exploring the environment around them. Invite children to investigate objects found along the sand – shells, pebbles, rocks, coral, seaweed, sticks, driftwood, sea sponge and footprints (**EYLF Learning Outcome 4.2**). Touch and describe the different textures, shapes and patterns of natural objects discovered at the beach. Use magnifying glasses to closely study patterns found in nature.

Together, draw shapes and repeated patterns in the sand to develop children's mathematical understandings.

Support the development of **EYLF Learning Outcome 2.4 'Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment'** by only leaving footprints behind and making sure everything else is taken home. Invite children to [Take 3 for the Sea](#) by collecting three pieces of rubbish to take away.



Observe the habitats of surrounding wildlife and explore relationships between living and non-living things by investigating coastal plant life, hermit crabs, rock pools and sea snails (**EYLF Learning Outcome 2.4**).

Invite children to close their eyes, and identify the sounds they hear at the beach – waves, wind, people, seagulls, crimson rosellas, mutton birds and/or cicadas.

Engage with the local community (**NQS Element 6.2.3 'Community engagement'**) by inviting along a respected local Aboriginal Elder from your coastal region to share their knowledge of bush tucker and reflect on how Aboriginal people living on Country catch food and live off the land.

*Beach Kindy* can provide an important opportunity to immerse children in Aboriginal culture and teach them about respecting Country and the Elders who lived on the land before us (**EYLF Principle 4 'Respect for diversity'**).



### WHEN YOU GET BACK

Together with children, research rocks and minerals found in nature and explore how they are often formed through weathering or polished smooth by wind and water. Read *'The Book of Stone'* (2019) by Mark Greenwood & Coral Tulloch and discover facts about stones of all shapes and sizes!

Extend children's knowledge by intentionally teaching concepts about coastal weather patterns and tides at the beach (**NQS Element 1.2.1**). Explore other patterns, shapes and colours found in the natural Australian landscape through Aboriginal art, by reading *'The Art in Country: A Treasury for Children'* (2020) by Bronwyn Bancroft.

Learn more about sea and coastal environments with ABC Kids Listen's [Why are there waves?](#) *Imagine This* podcast and **Play School's** [Sea and space](#) & *'Through the Windows'* film about the [Ocean](#).

Extend children's learning by reading story books about caring for oceans through recycling and conservation, such as *'Save the Ocean'* (2019) by Bethany Stahl.

Discuss the importance of a beach ecosystem by creating a large 3D collage artwork together. Use watercolours to paint an ocean backdrop and then populate the area by pasting magazine pictures/ printed photos of shells, rocks, birds, fish and other sea life. Foster high-level thinking skills about beach conservation by adding manmade objects to the collage e.g. rubbish, netting. Ask open-ended questions to stimulate children's thinking and develop their sense of agency about the active role they can play in protecting animals in the natural environment (**NQS Element 1.2.3 'Child directed learning'**).



Image: Pexels



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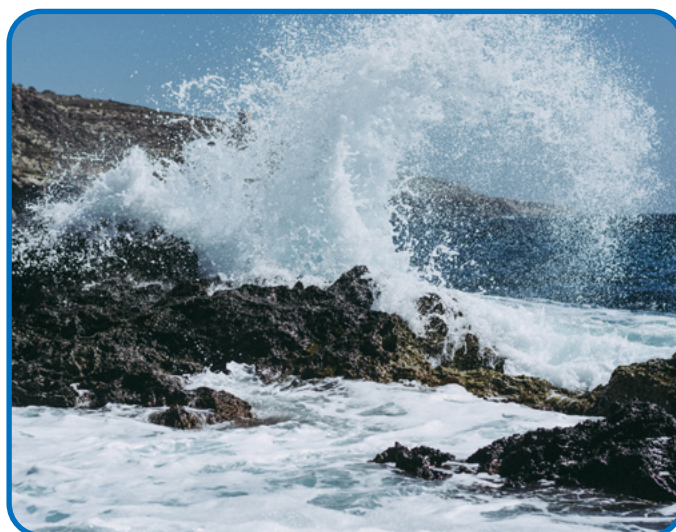
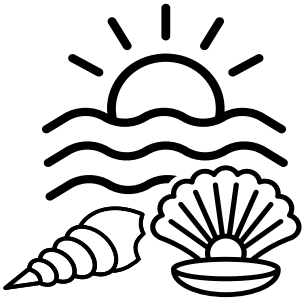


Image: Pexels



# My Noisy by Nature field trip **AT THE BEACH**

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

**While I was walking at the beach, I could HEAR, SEE, TOUCH and SMELL ...**

