

Introductory Tips & Tricks for Integrated Nature Education



Find your greenspace!

What works really well for your class and you? Spend some time exploring your school and perhaps places that are a short walk from your school.

Get organised.

Watch the videos and teacher tips. They are short to the point and inspirational so you can get on doing what you do best.

Speak less. Observe more...reflect and let go.

Watch your ākonga and what they do, reflect on what makes each individual shine and how the group flows in the outdoor environment. We all thrive in different environments.

Get support from your school whānau to build, collect resources and support learning experiences in your outdoor classroom. It does take a village to educate a child... everyone can help.

Just spend more time outside it's a natural differentiator and a natural diffuser. More oxygen, vitamin D and physical movement = better health for you and your ākonga.

Learner agency is a key part of integration. Offer students choice in their learning, which can be as simple as choosing from two options of how to demonstrate their understanding, or which role they will play in a cooperative group activity.

Keep it simple.

Start by integrating two or three Learning Areas that naturally align with the N2C concept that week. For example if you have been making mud structures outside you may link Science and Art in the classroom through building structures with other natural and man-made materials inside.

Clear is kind.

Be clear about the intended learning (and next steps) that you are integrating and check your students' understanding of this. (When other learning arises then that's awesome too). Also regularly remind yourself why you are using integration.

Expect to learn!

When you are integrating it won't always go as planned. This is a great opportunity to model life-long learning to your students and to not give up. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Remember we learn from our mistakes.

Reflection, reflection, reflection.

This links all of the above tips and tricks and is an essential part of all teaching, learning, and life. Make sure to create space on a weekly, if not daily, basis for yourself and your students to reflect on the strengths, challenges, questions and next steps they have about their learning and for you, integration.

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Nature2Classroom, designed by educators, for educators.