

## **Trent and Jenna Bliss: Wilderkids Junior**

### **About the mentors:**

Trent and Jenna are married with 3 children (aged 9, 7 and 3).

Completed studies and experience include:

- Indigenous studies
- Marine studies
- Nature one Nature immersion with Nature Philosophy
- Centre for ecological learning Certificate in Nature mentor training
- Certificate in Sharing Nature with children
- Several years of in depth studies within Traditional Herbalism
- 8 years of study into wild and edible plants of the East Coast of Australia plus participation in various wild food and earth skills workshops.
- Animist and oral cultural studies
- Worked at Australia zoo
- Worked for and with health and nutrition and fermentation companies

Trent is also a nature landscape and wildlife photographer.

Jenna is currently studying a Diploma of Early Childhood and Trent is studying both a Cert 4 in Youth Work and a Diploma in Nature Based Therapy. As time goes on we wish to continue with degrees in Herbal medicine and counselling as well as continuing to incorporate appropriate ongoing studies into deepening our ability to apply knowledge within the areas of nature mentoring for children and numerous earth skills and honoring practices.

### **About Wilderkids Junior:**

In running this program/day group we plan on drawing as much inspiration from nature as possible.

We do have a general plan of what a day may look at, however we do wish to go with what the children are intrigued in first and foremost, so our days are for the most part lead by the children themselves.

We will be observing cues throughout the day to know when we should move into another form of play or relaxation activity, whether that be more energetic play or activities or relaxing with story art, and song/music.

**Alongside of this, some of our values and aims include:**

- Create a sense of wonder and nurturing relationships within nature
- Have nature as the backbone and co facilitator of the play
- Incorporate natural movement to aid physical health,
- Promote and allow for free exploration and expression to learn who one is in this world,
- Sensory engagement through natural materials,
- Gentle learning the deep ecology of the local area
- Cultural inclusion and learning
- Earth skills
- Plant knowledge
- Re-membering ourselves to nature not reconnecting
- Holistic learning
- Nature inspired sensory learning and engagement
- Work with the archetypal elements (Earth, fire, Air, water, Ether) as means of sensory and meaning filled engagement.

**Predicted flow of the day that is open to change depending on the group's needs** (children are welcome to eat at any time and will be reminded to eat at the times specified below if they haven't already. We predict that on dry days, the majority of the day will be spent outdoors, with rest time inside) :

9am – drop off time and free play

915am - morning circle – see how everyone is feeling and if there is anything special they would like

to learn about that day. Talk about the activities we plan to do together that day.

9.30 – energetic group activity together – such as animal dance and imitations.

9.45 – garden activity/ Bush walk

10.15 – morning tea time

10.30 – outdoor play unstructured (workshops on offer change daily)

12.00- lunch time

12.30 – story and relax time (sleep time if anyone needs a sleep)

1pm – unstructured play (workshops on offer change daily)

2.15 - pack up time

2.50 – come together to say goodbye for the day

3pm - parents pick children up

We endeavour to do activities with the kids such as kids herb craft, nature connection activities and sensory learning. These will all be incorporated into the above timeline. We will be using as many natural materials from our local landscape as possible across all learning areas.

Our aim is to lead the children with activities and ideas that we have put together but to also let them take it where they would like to go. Our timeline is a very basic structure and will vary depending on the activities each day.

**What they need to bring:**

Hat

Sunscreen (we recommend applying sunblock and mosquito repellent prior to attending, when relevant)

Lunch and water bottles

Change of clothes

Nappies and wipes if needed

Weather appropriate clothing – for example on a rainy day, please ensure they have appropriate footwear such as gum boots and a rain coat.

Pillow and Blanket for their comfort.