SESSION RESOURCES:
Picture Books as Springboards for Nature Connection, Sustainability & Environmental Stewardship

NATURE NINJA BOOK

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NATURE & SUSTAINABILITY BOOK LIST

Take a look at what's on my bookshelf.

TANIA MOLONEY
Nurture in Nature Australia

Here's a look at some of the great nature books (Fiction and Non-Fiction) that I love and recommend for educators to help you on your nature-based education journey. I've recommended books across 10 categories (many of them span a few categories) and we hope you enjoy them and use them to support you in your nature-based teaching and learning journey.

1. Connecting with nature in the city or in an urban environment
- Natureopolis by Deborah Frenkel, Illustrated by Ingrid Bartkowiak
- Asphalt to Ecosystems: Design Ideas for Schoolyard Transformation by Sharon Gamson Danks

2. Diversity and inclusion - disability, culture/race, gender
- Just Ask by Sonia Sotomayer, Illustrated by Rafael Lopez

3. Book that invites children to notice nature
- Swatch: The Girl Who Loved Color by Julia Denos
- Sky Color by Peter H. Reynolds

4. Book that inspires children and educators to get their hands on/in nature
- My Mud Kitchen is RAD by Allison Bakkum, Illustrated by George Sweetland
- Mud Pies and Other Recipes by Margorie Winslow, Illustrated by Erik Blegvad

5. Flora or Fauna
- The Book of Australian Trees by Inga Simpson, Illustrated by Alicia Rogerson

6. Natural Loose Parts
- Fairieality by David Ellwand, Eugenie Bird, & David Downton
- Loose Parts Learning in K-3 Classrooms by Carla Gull, Suzanne Levernson Goldstein, & Tricia Rosengarten

7. Nurturing nature
- City Green by DyAnne DiSalvo Ryan
- Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World by Tania Moloney, Ilustrated by Jelena Sardi

8. Embedding Indigenous cultures
- Bundjil Creation Story, Story by Prof. Carolyn Briggs AM PhD Images created by Balnarring Bubups
- Beyond the Gate: Respecting the relationship of children, culture, and the natural world edited by Claire Warden and Dough Fargher

9. Kids favourite
- Gary the Goat by Danielle Pickford, Illustrator Anna Djordjevic

10. An amazing non-fiction nature book for supporting teachers
- Transforming Practice: Transforming lives through diverse children's literature by Dr Helen Adam
- The Organic Artist for Kids by Nick Neddo

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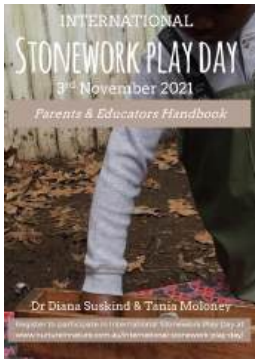
NATURE BASED PLAY & OUTDOOR LEARNING RESOURCES & DOWNLOADS

INTERNATIONAL STONEWORK PLAY DAY EBOOK

https://nurtureinnature.com.au/international-stonework-play-day/



NATURE STORYTELLING PLAYBOOK

https://nurtureinnature.com.au/playbook/

NATURE NINJA BOOK & TEACHER RESOURCES

https://nurtureinnature.com.au/books

THE NEW RULES OF NATURE PLAY

CLICK TO GET FREE ACCESS TO DOWNLOAD 'THE NEW RULES OF NATURE PLAY' POSTER PDF

NURTURE IN NATURE MUSIC & BIRDSONG AUDIO

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE MUSIC & BIRDSONG AUDIO

LEAF MEDITATION

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE LEAF MEDITATION SCRIPT PDF

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE LEAF MEDITATION AUDIO

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NATURE BASED PLAY & OUTDOOR LEARNING RESOURCES & DOWNLOADS

NATURE INSPIRED LEARNING PD'S

Inspiring, hands on and fun In Person and Virtual Professional Development Programs
www.nurtureinnature.com.au/pd

CAMPFERENCE TEACHER NATURE CONFERENCE

Join us for an amazing professional development weekend of unhurried and immersive hands on learning, outdoor play, networking, idea sharing and nature connection!
www.nurtureinnature.com.au/campference-2025

SCHOOL READINESS FUNDING APPROVED

Nurture in Nature is an Approved Provider on the Victorian Government's School Readiness Funding (SRF) Menu of evidence-informed programs and services. Our Professional Development Sessions and Campference are part of the inclusions in our SRF Menu Items.

SCHOOL READINESS FUNDING

Nurture in Nature: Embedding Nature Based Play to Support Wellbeing in Early Childhood Education (Social and Emotional Learning)

Nurture in Nature is an Approved Provider on the Victorian Government's School Readiness (SRF) Menu of evidence-informed programs and services.

Our approved training program and program inclusions, support and address the SRF priority area of: wellbeing (social and emotional / SEL)

- self-regulation, focus and attention
- positive relationships, friendships and attachments
- emotional resilience and positive mental health
- social responsibility and helping skills

This program will be available wider than for Victorian Kindergartens in 2025. Please contact tania@nurtureinnature.com.au or 0409 843 965 with enquiries.

www.nurtureinnature.com.au/srf

Please do get in touch if I can support you in any way & keep making your awesome difference for children and nature.

Tania Moloney
Founder of Nurture in Nature
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Web: www.NurtureInNature.com.au

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Author Visit with Tania Moloney

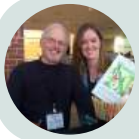
Inspiring the next generation of nature heroes, readers and storytellers!

Tania's gorgeous new Award-Winning Australian picture book helps children see that the biggest and best way they can make a difference for the planet is by caring for the nature that's right outside their door - and that their voices and actions can inspire others protect the planet too!

YOUR VISIT WILL BE CUSTOMISED TO YOUR NEEDS & CAN INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Author Reading
- Creating a Picture Book Chat
- Book Signing
- Creative Storytelling Class
- Nature Activity/Craft
- Prizes & Giveaways

"Nature Ninja is the perfect inspiration for children to save the natural world in their own ways."
— Tash Treveton, Early Childhood Education Consultant, Inspired EC



"Tania Moloney makes saving the natural world fun!"
— Richard Louv, Author "Last Child in the Woods" and "Vitamin N"

As a Principal whose school philosophy encapsulates nature throughout our whole curriculum, there are so many teaching and learning opportunities to explore with Nature Ninja."
JOANNE PEGG, Principal, Bullarto Primary School

Learn more about the book at www.nurtureinnature.com.au/books
In-person and Virtual Visits available. Contact Tania to enquire or schedule your visit: tania@nurtureinnature.com.au or 0409 843 965

NATURE NINJA'S NATURE FRIENDLY IDEAS

These Nature Ninja's Nature Friendly Ideas are inspired by the multi-award winning children's book 'Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World' Written by Tania Moloney & Illustrated by Jelena Sardi

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ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE QUOTES FROM A REAL-LIFE NATURE NINJA...

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

- Dr Jane Goodall

NATURE NINJA'S NATURE FRIENDLY IDEAS

SEED TAPE

NATURE NINJA'S NATURE FRIENDLY IDEAS

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SEED TAPE

This easy and fun nature experience will help grow your natural green thumb and a variety of seeds to boot!

WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper Towel
- Natural Glue - Flour and Water
- Thin sticks - These are your natural Glue Sticks
- Seeds - You can use any seeds - vegetables, sprouts, flowers
- Somewhere to plant your seed tape - garden bed, pot or windowsill

HANDY TIP: Sprouts, beans and other fast growing seeds are really great for seeing quick results in just a few days! Then try some seeds that take a little more time and patience to grow... Wait, wait, wait...

WHAT YOU DO

1. PREPARE YOUR SEED TAPE: Fold a square of paper towel into thirds and cut thin strips (about 2cm wide) so that you have long strips when they're unfolded.

2. MAKE YOUR NATURE FRIENDLY GLUE: Combine a small amount of flour and add water a little bit at a time. Mix with a thin stick (your natural 'glue stick') .

3. STICK YOUR SEEDS ONTO THE PAPER: Using your stick, place dots of glue along the paper towel and place a seed on each dot.

4. PLANT YOUR SEEDS: Dig a small furrow about 1-2cm deep in the soil in your garden or a pot (use your finger or a stick). Lay your seed tape in the furrow and cover over with soil. Don't plant them too deep, just under a little soil. Sprinkle them with water and keep moist (but not soaking wet). Then wait, wait wait... and watch them grow!

The Seed Tape will naturally break down in the soil - it's chemical free and nature friendly!

FUN EXPERIMENT: If you're using sprouts and want to try growing your sprouts without soil on a windowsill or on a plate/container, simply lay your seed tape down and spray it with water a couple of times a day to keep it moist (but not soaking wet). This is a fun experiment to notice the difference in growing time between these seeds and the seeds planted in soil!

TAKE IT FURTHER

- Keep track of the time it takes for your seeds to sprout and then track their growth over time.
- Experiment with different seed types.
- Create a Miniature Garden using a whole square of paper towel as your Seed Tape.

Nature Ninja Approved

FOR MORE NATURE FRIENDLY & FUN IDEAS SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
www.NurtureInNature.com.au/books

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NATURE NINJA'S NATURE FRIENDLY IDEAS

ORIGAMI SEED PACKETS

© Nurture in Nature Books

NATURE NINJA'S NATURE FRIENDLY IDEAS

NURTURE in Nature

ORIGAMI SEED PACKETS

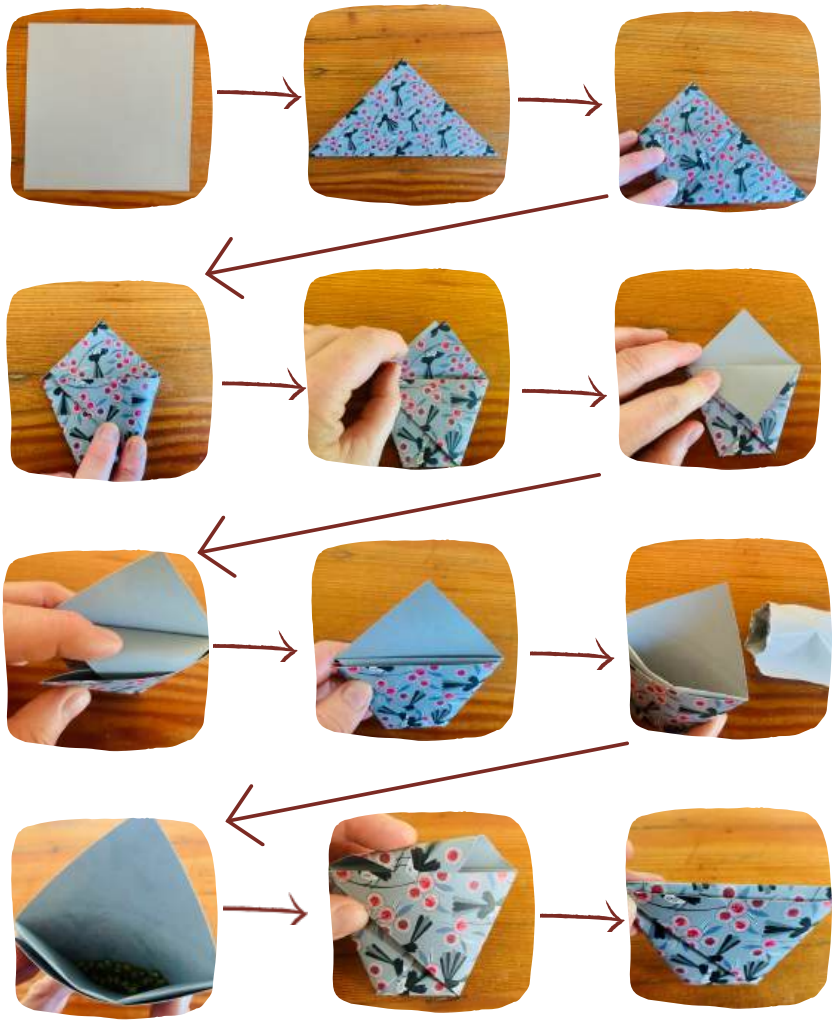
This easy and fun origami pattern makes a great little paper packet to keep your seeds in!

WHAT YOU NEED

- A square piece of paper (15cm x 15cm or larger makes a great size)

HANDY TIP: Use recycled or scrap paper, just make sure it's a square. You don't need to use any glue for this design!

WHAT YOU DO



1. FOLD A TRIANGLE:
Fold your square into a triangle shape.

2. FOLD THE LONG EDGE POINTY TIPS IN:
Take one point and fold it across to the far side so it makes a smaller triangle shape. Repeat on the other side.

3. FOLD THE TOP POINT DOWN AND TUCK IT IN:
Take the top point and fold it down over the middle folds. Tuck it into the front triangle to hold it in place.

4. PUT IN YOUR SEEDS: Put in some seeds - it's perfect for holding eco-glitter too!

5. TUCK IN THE TOP TRIANGLE:
Take the top triangle, fold it down and tuck it in where you tucked the first one in to seal it up! Your seeds will be snug and safely tucked in!

TAKE IT FURTHER

- These Seed Packets make lovely gifts for your friends, family or teacher!
- Experiment with different size paper.

FUN DESIGN FACT:

One of the cool things about this little packet is that it has an in-built handy spout to pour your seeds out!

Nature Ninja Approved

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for your support!

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If you have any questions about these Terms of Use, this product or discover an error, please get in touch tania@nurtureinnature.com.au.

I love to see these resources being enjoyed by kids, teachers and classrooms all over the world, so I would love for you to share about how you are using this resource. Please credit Nurture in Nature.

See you OUTSIDE!

Tania Moloney

Founder of Nurture in Nature Australia &
Award-Winning Children's Book Author

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For fun stuff, additional resources, teaching guides and other planet protecting ideas, or to buy the book visit

www.nurtureinnature.com.au/books

or scan the QR code

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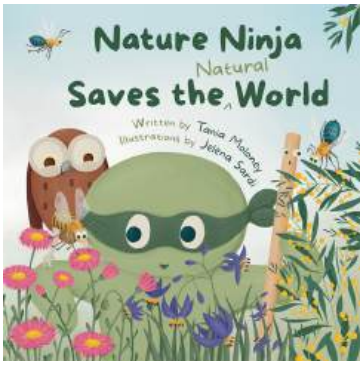
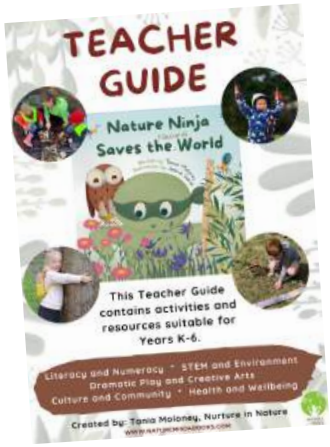
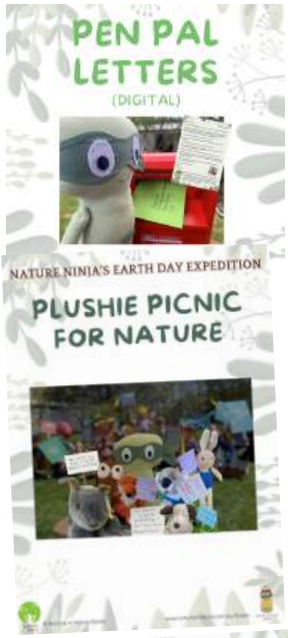
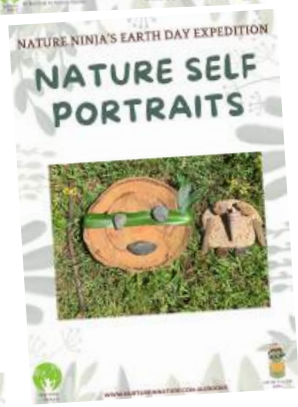
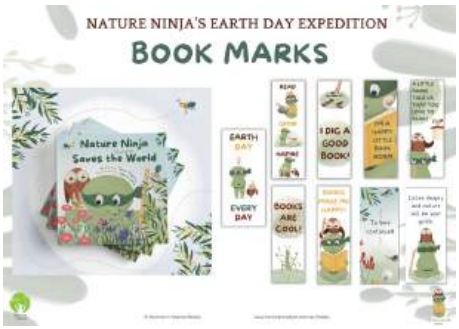


RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GO BEYOND THE BOOK









+ more!

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Nature Ninja's Earth Day Expedition Calendar

NURTURE IN NATURE BOOKS

APRIL 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Read Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World	2 Take the Nature Ninja Pledge	3 Q. Why do we celebrate Earth Day?	4 Plant a Seed	5 Sit Spot	6 Hug a Tree	7 Find a Stick
8 Make a Stick Friend & Give it a Name	9 Q. What bees live in your backyard?	10 Create a Bee Friendly Container Garden	11 Make a Nature Self Portrait	12 Sit Spot	13 Go bird watching in your backyard or local park	14 Nature Ninja's Sensory Treasure Hunt
15 Q. Who are the First Nations People where you live?	16 Invite a First Nations Elder or local Nature Hero to visit	17 Write a list of ways you can care for nature	18 Go cloud watching or star gazing	19 Sit Spot	20 Find 8 different colours in nature	21 Sit Spot
22 VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP & AUTHOR VISIT	23 VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP & AUTHOR VISIT	24 Q. Who is your real life Nature Hero?	25 Make a 'Stick Up for Nature' Sign	26 Sit Spot	27 Find the Longest Leaf	28 Share a snack or meal outdoors
29 Write your own Nature Ninja Pledge	30 Plushie Picnic					

EARTH DAY!!

HOW TO TOTALLY ROCK YOUR NATURE NINJA'S EARTH DAY EXPEDITION!

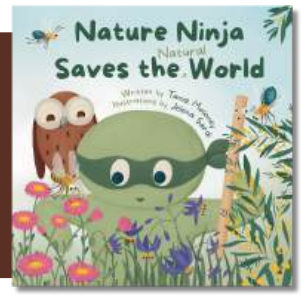
- Each day during April complete the task/ activity/experience listed on the calendar
- Tick the circle when you've completed that day
- If you miss a day, don't worry. You can do that activity any other day!
- Get your family to join you on your Earth Day Expeditions on the holidays and weekends
- If you don't have a backyard, you can explore nature in your school yard or local park - or even on your balcony!
- Your Stick friend can help you DIG DIG DIG your Mini Bee Friendly Garden - just like Stick helps Nature Ninja in the story!
- On the VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP & AUTHOR VISIT day that you're not booked in, use this as a catch up day or make up your own adventure!

WE'D LOVE TO SEE & HEAR ABOUT YOUR EARTH DAY EXPEDITION ADVENTURES!

- EMAIL: Send an email to Tania Moloney & Nature Ninja at tania@nurtureinnature.com.au
- POST: You can send us snail mail too! PO Box 86, Noorat, Victoria, 3265 Australia
- SOCIALS: Post on Facebook and Instagram. Tag @nurtureinnature and use #natureninjabooks #earthday2024 #nurtureinnature

Nature Ninja's Earth Day Expedition activities are inspired by and based on the award-winning children's picture book, Nature Ninja Saves the Natural World. Written by Tania Moloney and Illustrations by Jelena Sardi.

To join in the Earth Day Expedition and get the book visit www.nurtureinnature.com.au/earthday



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