



Learning Through Play in Nature

Our Early Years program is intentionally designed, based on research and years of our own Green School Bali (GSB) experience, to include a meaningful variety of learning opportunities important to the Early Years learner - including: connecting and learning in nature, social-emotional development, physical development, learning through play, community integration, projects, literacy and numeracy skill development, life-skills and values ... and fun!

In Early Years (EY) at Green School Bali, a reverence for the Earth as our teacher begins to emerge. We are born with an authentic love of, and fascination with, nature. Exposure to nature's miracles deepens and nurtures our innate sense of awe and wonder.

We want to hop like a bunny, slither like a snake, blossom like a flower and swim like a fish. We watch the sun sparkle on a spider's web, smell the scent of a frangipani flower, and squeal with delight as the sticky mud oozes through our fingers. These experiences help develop our strong sense of connection with the natural world. The *Children of the Earth* (a description for our Early Years students taken from our Green School Song) love to learn through play, expressing ourselves through song, dance, storytelling and art.

We are Green School's beating heart of love for the world around us, and we are a heart that is filled with joy.



Wall-less Learning

Campus Connections

Early Years students at Green School Bali venture out into our vibrant campus and beyond to learn more about our community and to embody REAL learning. We go for leisurely strolls with our 'nature eyes', filled with enthusiasm and ready to find new friends in the form of creatures, plants, and people. Even if the walk is a short distance, for instance, from the classroom to the library, there is still the opportunity to encounter a majestic butterfly or a wriggling worm as well as rocks to climb and natural treasures to collect.



Students spend time in the gardens and kitchen to discover more about our campus heroes and to build an awareness of where their food comes from. Early Years children also participate in our 'Jalan Jalan' program to develop an appreciation and awareness of the beauty of Bali outside of our school. The program is intentionally designed to be wall-less in that students and educators take advantage of our living campus and to strengthen local connections.

A Cocoon in Our Jungle Campus

Early Years Learning Neighbourhood Environment

At Green School Bali, we have four Learning Neighbourhoods across the school (Early Years, Primary School, Middle School and High School). The Early Years campus is a little village in the centre of our sprawling jungle campus and is intentionally designed to be a separate space on campus for our younger *Children of The Earth*. Our learning environment is part of our Learning program and the Early Years space has curving flowing lines, mud spaces, sand pits, playgrounds, a space for meals, and a bamboo pirate ship!



Educating for Sustainability in Early Years

Stages of Environmental Readiness

The Early Years program's developmentally appropriate approach to sustainability aligns with the school's 'stages of environmental readiness'. These stages reflect the idea that there are healthy ways to foster environmental awareness and empower students by supporting children's biological tendency to bond with the natural world. The Early Years program aims to foster the natural connection to the magnificence of the Earth because when students grow up, they will treasure what they love.



STAGES

of Environmental
Readiness

Empathy
Ages 3-7

Finding
Animal Allies



Characteristics

- Thinking of home and yard
- Empathy and bonding
- Wonder
- Imagination
- Emotional regulation
- Playfulness
- Rapid physical/intellectual development



Goals

- Cultivate connectedness as an emotional foundation
- Foster connections that practice ecology to develop empathy with the natural world, and encourage feelings for creatures



Activities

- Stories and songs
- Move like animals
- Celebrate seasons
- Cultivate relationships with animals real and imagined
- Bird curriculum
- Animal spirits
- Inner zoology

Early Years Curriculum and Pedagogy

At Green School Bali, Early Years refers to the learning offered in Geckos, Starlings and Kindy. Students typically become four years old when they join Geckos and six years old during their last year in Kindy.

In Early Years, we believe that students learn more from **how** they are taught than from **what** they are taught. Our program reflects the Green School Principles, which are core shared beliefs about how to nurture learning experiences that build connections, allow for exploration and inspire joy and wonder.

Our pedagogical belief is that learning is most impactful when it is:



The **REAL** learning principles are designed to foster authentic experiences in which students can grow and nurture their values, skills and competencies.

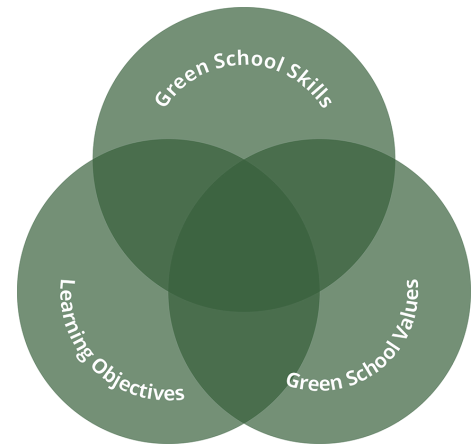
The Big Four

We believe that if we want children to be successful and whole, we must engage all levels of their being. In an attempt to engage multiple intelligences and the whole child, Green School uses the The Big Four to design holistic learning experiences:



Green School Curriculum: *A Balanced Approach to Learning*

Always evolving, the Green School Bali Learning Program seeks to find a balance between the skills, values and discipline-based competencies that prepare learners for an ever-changing world. Our program aims to achieve a carefully balanced approach of personal and social growth as well as academic learning designed to develop the qualities, skills and competencies described in Green School's **Ambitions**. At Green School, we uniquely place as much emphasis on skills and values, as we do on subject-specific learning objectives. This is the uniqueness of the Green School Way.












Green School Skills

By nurturing 'Green School Skills' in our students, we aim to prepare them for their journey as learners and as passionate friends of the environment for the rest of their lives. Students learn these skills throughout every part of our program, including projects and lessons that align with the Green School Mission of 'A Community of Learners Making *Our* World Sustainable'. Early Years is the beginning of school for most children and this is a crucial time for creating a strong foundation for life-long learning. Students in Early Years explore the Green School Skills every day - to take risks, to get messy, to explore, to build independence, and gain confidence, while celebrating and nurturing the magic of childhood. Young children learn by doing so there is endless action and abundant energy. Relationships with yourself, others and Mother Earth are the foundation of the program and students develop personal awareness each day. These early years are critical to the development of the child as from birth until age five, the brain develops at the most rapid pace.

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Think	Act	Reflect
 <p>Think Creatively Be original. Be imaginative</p>	 <p>Activate Feel empowered & empower others. Take Action. Make difference</p>	 <p>Be Aware Look within. Figure yourself out.</p>
 <p>Think Critically Dig deeper. Ask why. Make connections.</p>	 <p>Collaborate Confident alone. Stronger together. Find your way.</p>	 <p>Solves Problem Figure it out. Go for it.</p>
 <p>Think in Systems Step back and see the whole picture</p>	 <p>Communicate Process, organize, & coherently express ideas</p>	 <p>Adapt Bend like bamboo</p>

Discipline-Specific Curriculum



Our Early Years program offers a child-centric education built around a developmentally appropriate sequence of learning objectives. The holistic and playful program sparks children's natural curiosity and instills the joy of learning through singing, dancing, art, story-telling, cultural celebrations, yoga and mindfulness, green studies, and excursions around our awe-inspiring campus. This is interspersed with a gentle integration of proficiencies, such as numeracy and literacy, in a very holistic, differentiated and scaffolded way.

The program for all classes, Geckos, Starlings and Kindy, is built around six areas of learning:

- 1. Physical Development (Gross Motor and Fine Motor)**
- 2. Social Emotional**
- 3. Language Development**
- 4. Mathematics**
- 5. Creative Expression**
- 6. Indonesian Studies (Language and Culture)**

Green School IRESPECT Values

At Green School Bali we subscribe to a set of values - **IRRESPECT**. These are the values of Integrity, Responsibility, Equity, Sustainability, Peace, Empathy, Community, and Trust. We teach and model these values and support our students in doing the same. We encourage all educators to honour and recognize these values in our students with ongoing dialogue, discussions, modeling, and reinforcement.

There is a large emphasis in our Early Years program on instilling values of kindness, love and mutual respect for each other and our planet.

Integrity – being honest and ethical with thoughts and actions.

Responsibility – being accountable for thoughts, actions and deeds.

Empathy – understanding and caring for the feelings of others.

Sustainability – ensuring that your own body and surroundings are cared for and healthy.

Peace – contributing to a state of harmony.

Equity - respecting everyone as an individual and valuing fairness.

Community – being part of a group seeking common goals and taking care of each other.

Trust - building and maintaining strong relationships with each other, the school and the environment.

Three Frames of Learning

The pedagogical structure used to implement Green School Bali's curriculum is called the 'Three Frames of Learning'. These separate frames determine how we deliver various learning experiences at the school. This scaffold is designed to provide a consistent, relevant, well-rounded and comprehensive learning experience. The three frames of learning are:

1. Thematic Frame
2. Proficiency Frame
3. Experiential Frame



Thematic Frame

This frame is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where units are focused on a particular theme. Thematic units inspire students through relevant concepts and real-world experiences. Thematic lessons are holistic in that they engage multiple styles of intelligence and learning (the Big Four). They are aligned with Green School's purpose and 'Learning and Living Ambitions' in that teachers lead activities designed around Green School Skills in each Thematic Unit. Each Learning Neighbourhood approaches thematics differently to match our practice with human development and growth.



Thematic Lessons in Early Years are used for developing high engagement / love of learning and initial concept building. They supply the creative, experiential, meaningful context for topics studied. Whenever possible, thematic lessons are Integrated, cross-curricular and infused with the full range of the arts (visual, practical, musical, dramatic). The overarching thematics are inspired by permaculture principles and examples of these titles include *A Sense of Place*, *We are One*, *Gifts from the Earth*, *Be the Change* and *Time to Fly*.

Proficiency Frame

The Proficiency frame focuses on core, discrete intellectual competencies that require repetition to reach proficiency, namely in Literacy and Mathematics. Students know their skills and how to advance them to the next level. Attention to detail for individual learners maximises success in this frame.

The Proficiency frame in Early Years is dedicated to learning specific core skills, which form the basis of literacy, numeracy and language other than English (Bahasa Indonesia). The lessons are driven by what the children are learning and are differentiated to meet students' needs.

Experiential Frame

Experiential learning at Green School is the “hands-on getting dirty” part of Green School. Whether it means working in the school gardens, creating art, or building out of bamboo, you will find students exploring and problem solving around the campus and around Bali. Students in every Learning Neighbourhood engage in real-world practical projects that deepen their understanding of their physical place in the world.

In Early Years, this frame is dedicated to linking school to the real world. Sometimes mystery guests visit to deliver lessons in their areas of expertise. Lessons that make up the experiential frame include: Jalan Jalan, Cooking Class, Green Studies, Physical Well-Being, Music, Dance, Library, Community Projects and Yoga. Real life skills such as cleaning and construction are also an integral part of the day. Ideas for individual and collaborative projects become a reality with the assistance of the Innovation Hub (IHUB) as well as the Project Bank.

Flagship Programs

Mystery Guests

In Early Years, one exciting feature of the experiential frame is the 'Mystery Guest' who visits weekly. These members of the Green School community provide a link to real-world experiences through their stories or activities. For example, some parents have conducted science experiments with students as other faculty members have come in to share stories about their work, projects, and passions. Other families have shared cultural traditions, including holidays, dance, language, stories, and cooking, with the Early Years community.



Jalan Jalan

This program is designed to link learning to life outside of school. The courses give students valuable life experience by connecting them to local and global communities, and engaging them with people, projects and important environmental and human causes - local, national and global. An example of a Jalan Jalan was weekly visits to a local Kindergarten and making a pizza garden together on their campus. In Early Years, students go on Jalan Jalan (meaning ‘walkabout’) at least once per term. They leave campus to explore the island of Bali on field trips to places such as Bali Bird Park, Bedugul, Setia Darma House of Masks and Puppets or Yellow Coco Creative Nest.



Mindfulness

Social and Emotional skills of mindfulness play an integral role in self development. Mindfulness offers strategies for helping students to focus their attention, improve self-regulation skills, build resilience and develop a positive mind-set whilst at school and in life. Mindfulness is weaved

throughout the day as a practice in the classrooms and school wide is a feature of each day. The entire school pauses each day at 2:00 pm as the gong sounds and invites each member of the community to bring awareness to their breath.

Teman-Teman

'Teman-Teman' in Bahasa Indonesia means 'friends' and 'friendship'. This program is designed to foster relationships between grades and learning neighbourhoods. Students in Starlings, for example, meet and play games with their mentors from primary and middle school. These relationships are important to our Early Years students as they learn to play and collaborate following our IRESPECT values.



Yoga

Each student in Early Years participates in a yoga session every week in our peaceful yoga studio. This space comes with a stunning view of the Ayung River and is perched above the bamboo jungle with a wild soundtrack of insects and rushing water. The students focus on mindfully moving their bodies along with an awareness of the breath.

Yoga is dynamically introduced

through songs, games, stories and asanas (traditional yoga postures). The children work collaboratively to experiment with partner yoga poses. In addition to the weekly guided sessions, yoga is spontaneously done in the classrooms and on the playground.



Transitions: *Stepping Up to Grade 1*

During the last couple of months of the semester, our Kindergarten and Grade 1 teams work together to prepare students for the transition from Early Years into Primary School. This is an important milestone in their learning journey and careful planning goes into including this in the Kindergarten Learning Program. Preparation includes a series of



classroom visits to the Primary School Learning Neighbourhood, explorations with both grades as well as an introduction to the rhythm of the day in Grade 1. The children experience what it is like to be part of the larger school campus which includes having lunch with all of the PS and playing in the wider school spaces on the Green School campus. This preparation for Grade 1 culminates in a beautiful 'Stepping Up' Kindergarten graduation ceremony that is a beautiful and tear-filled celebration of the children. The transition for the preschoolers to their next grade or new adventure is also honored as children need time to prepare for the upcoming changes and we strive to make this as smooth and gentle as possible.

For more information, please visit us at:

www.greenschool.org

Admission enquiries: admissions@greenschool.org

Green School Bali