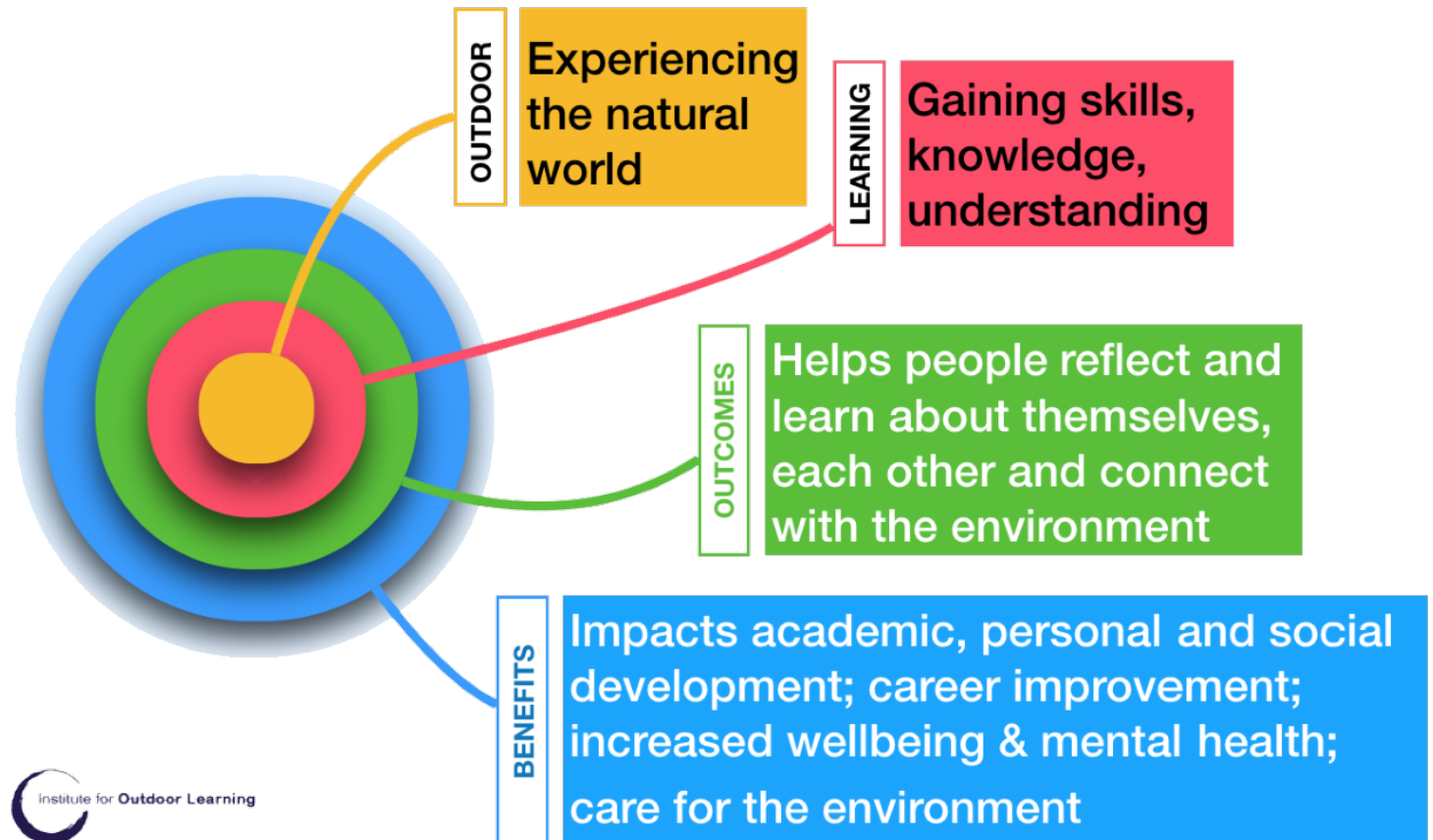


# Outdoor Learning Essendon

Our vision



# Outdoor Learning helps children to become...

- **Engaged** – outdoor learning encourages learners to understand the interplay and relationship between curriculum areas. This awareness promotes lifelong learning and develops critical thinking skills.
- **Healthier** – learning outdoors can lead to lifelong recreation, activities such as walking and cycling which are ideal for physical and emotional wellbeing.
- **Safer and stronger** – outdoor learning activities span social divisions and can help build stronger communities. Children and young people have opportunities to develop skills to assess and manage risk when making decisions.
- **Successful**– the outdoors provides excellent opportunities to use a wide range of skills and abilities not always visible in the classroom. Becoming aware of such skills can fundamentally change personal, peer and staff perceptions and lead to profound changes in life expectations and success.

# Core values of Outdoor Learning

- Core values and key concepts of outdoor learning include: challenge, enjoyment, relevance, depth, development of the whole person and an adventurous approach to learning. The outdoor environment encourages staff and students to see each other in a different light, building positive relationships and improving self-awareness and understanding of others.
- Opportunities for outdoor learning exist within and across all curriculum areas, including the themes for development across learning such as enterprise in education, sustainable development education and global citizenship. Learning outdoors is part of the wide range of practical approaches to developing skills.
- Learning in the outdoors can make significant contributions to literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. In literacy there are opportunities to use different texts: the spoken word, charts, maps, timetables and instructions. In numeracy there are opportunities to measure angles and calculate bearings and journey times. In health and wellbeing there are opportunities to become physically active in alternative ways and to improve emotional wellbeing and mental health.



# Why we participate in Outdoor Classroom Days

OUTDOOR  
CLASSROOM  
DAY

The logo for Outdoor Classroom Day features the words 'OUTDOOR', 'CLASSROOM', and 'DAY' stacked vertically. 'OUTDOOR' is in blue, 'CLASSROOM' is in orange, and 'DAY' is in green. A magnifying glass with an orange handle and a blue frame is positioned over the 'O' in 'CLASSROOM', with a blue starburst shape inside the lens.

- ‘Outdoor Classroom Day’ is a global campaign to inspire and celebrate outdoor learning and play. By getting involved in the annual celebrations, we help send a message to the world that time outdoors every day is important for every child.