

Parent or legal guardian of a child participant Information Sheet for a Study on Children's Connection to Nature and Pro-Environmental Behaviour

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About this project

I am a Masters student in Environmental Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. As part of this degree I am undertaking a research project leading to a thesis. The project I am undertaking is examining how New Zealand children perceive connection to nature and how this correlates with pro-environmental behaviour. I am also looking at how environmental education programmes, such as Sustainable Coastlines, can foster a connection to nature within their programme. In summary, this study aims to understand if Kiwi children enjoy nature and if there is room for improvement. This research project has received approval from the Victoria University Human Ethics Committee.

What is involved?

I am inviting children participants, ages 8-12 who are involved in Sustainable Coastlines' 'Love Your Water' environmental education programme, to take part in this research. Surveys, designed to take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and randomly conducted interviews of approximately 5 minutes will form the basis of my research project.

- As part of a class exercise your child's teacher will administer the surveys in the classroom and your child's teacher will collect the surveys upon completion. Your child will be asked if they would like to participate in a survey. Examples of the survey questions are:
 1. Being outdoors makes me happy (Agree-Disagree)
 2. Even when the weather is bad I like to play outside (Agree-Disagree)
- I will conduct the interviews during the tree planting event and 1-2 students in the class will be asked to participate. Students will first be asked if they would like to participate and if they agree then they will be asked to check "I agree to participate in this interview" on their own Consent Form. The interview will be voice recorded. Examples of the interview questions are:
 1. Do you want to show your family and friends the trees that you're planting?
 2. How do you feel about planting trees?

The information that your child provides will be treated confidentially and no names will be recorded. Reference will be made to the location of the research, i.e., the name of the school, and the name and location of the stream or river in which the tree planting took place. Your child will not be individually identified in my research project or in any other presentation or publication. Participants' names will not be recorded on the survey or during the interview; therefore it will not be possible to review the individual responses to the questions upon completion. However, at your request a summary of the class findings can be provided following the conclusions of the research project. All material collected will be kept confidential. No other person besides myself, my supervisor (Wokje Abrahamse) and Sustainable Coastlines' programme managers will see the primary material collected. All survey and interview material will be kept safe, locked in a filing drawer and all interview material will be destroyed within one year following the submission of the thesis.

What will happen with information your child provides

The thesis produced using this material will be submitted for marking to the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences and deposited in the University Library. The information retrieved from this research may also be used to contribute to articles intended for publication in scholarly journals, for the construction of conference papers and presentations, or to announce Sustainable Coastlines' programme outcomes on their website (<http://sustainablecoastlines.org/event/love-water-2015/>).

How to contact us

If you have any further questions or would like to receive further information about the project, please contact:

- Me at, sarastuart@myvuw.ac.nz, 027 342 7963
- My supervisor, Wokje Abrahamse, at the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences at Victoria University, wokje.abrahamse@vuw.ac.nz, 04 463 5217
- Sustainable Coastlines' Communications Manager Camden Howitt, camden@sustainablecoastlines.org, 021 212 7287.

If you have any ethical concerns about the research please contact Associate Professor Susan Corbett (Susan.Corbett@vuw.ac.nz), ph: 04 463 5676, Convener of the Victoria University Human Ethics Committee

Kia Ora and thank you very much for your interest in this study.

With kind regards, Sara Stuart-Currier