**Nurturing Life Skills Through Nature-Based Learning and Loose Parts Play**

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**Abstract**

Each year, some 150,000 students visit our four wildlife parks, namely Singapore Zoo, River Safari, Jurong Bird Park and Night Safari. In the past, the educators focused largely on imparting knowledge of the living collection to school visitors. However, with ease access to information through the Internet, there is an urgent need to redefine learning experiences in our wildlife parks to stay relevant and connect to our young visitors.

Today, guided by the strategic intent to invite every child to grow up with us, we adopt a different approach and layer wildlife learning with pedagogical principles to nurture life skills. Age-appropriate nature-based programs rooted in the `See-Think-Wonder’ Thinking Routine encourage self-directed learning for school visitors from nursery to tertiary level. Loose Parts Play is another pedagogical tool used to allow students to strengthen observational skills and make connection. When children are exposed to Lose Parts Play, they become curious and creative.

**Keywords**: Nature-based learning, See-Think-Wonder, Loose Parts Play, Life Skills,

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