



BUTTERFLY creek™

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHERS PLANNING GUIDE

Every year our living classroom offers thousands of students the chance to explore and connect with nature and learn all about the animal world. It's easy for even the littlest of legs to walk around, and a perfect day out rain or shine as half our exhibits are under cover.

Our onsite Education Co-coordinator will work directly with you before and on the day to ensure you get the most out of off your visit. If you are a large centre they are happy to create group rotations or schedule in private group train rides.

As a privately owned business we do not receive any govt funding but do our best to keep our education and group pricing affordable and we offer a competitive free adult to child ratio depending on the age of the children visiting.

### **Our current pricing as of April 2020**

Age/Group	Price	Ratio of free adults to children
ECE child under 3	Free entry*	None
ECE child age 3-4	\$9.00pp (save 43%)	1 adult per 4 paying children
Adult supervisor in any group	\$18.50pp (save 34%)	Not applicable
Optional Train Ride (1 loop around the track)	\$1.50pp (save 50%)	Not applicable
Optional Children's meal packs	\$11.50pp (save 15%)	Not applicable

**Booking an education visit can be done using our online booking calendar** found on our website. It will show the days we have available including the number of spaces. We suggest booking 5-7 weeks in advance and for the maximum number you are hoping to bring on the day. For health and safety reasons we only open a certain number of spaces for education each day.

**We do require a 25% deposit** payable at time of booking to secure your visit, which is refundable up to 14 working day before your visit if you do need to cancel for any reason.

**Our booking coordinator is available Monday – Friday** during school hours to answer any questions you may have regarding your booking. They will make contact a few days after booking then again -2 weeks out from our trip date to go over how the day will run.

## Education Booking Q & A's

### ***How long should we visit Butterfly Creek for?***

Generally, it is best to plan to be here for 2 - 4 hours. Groups vary greatly but in general, here is a general guideline for timings:

- Introduction talk: 10-15 minutes
- Morning tea: 15 mins
- Lunch: 30 mins
- Train: 10 minutes
- Farm: 30 minutes
- Aquarium & bugs: 10 minutes
- Butterfly house & Monkeys: 15 minutes
- Crocodiles, Kiwi House, Otters, Eels: 25 minutes
- Mythic Creatures: 10 mins
- Dinosaur Kingdom: 15 – 20 minutes

### ***What time should we arrive and what do we do when we arrive?***

The best time to arrive is between 9.30am and 10.30am.

On arrival groups should wait by the wooden gate by the ice cream shop while the lead teacher reports to the main ticket office to meet the coordinator, gives final numbers and makes payment.

The coordinator will then guide the group into the park for their welcome talk and to be wrist banded up.

Most groups start by having morning tea in the courtyard where the playground is after their welcome by the group coordinator.

### ***Is there bus parking and how far do the children have to walk to the entrance?***

We ask that you get the bus to stop and drop you right beside the barn in the bus drop off/pick up zone. Once everyone has disembarked the bus can then move to the large gravel area beyond the car park until you are ready leave. They can collect you in the same place as drop off.

### ***Do we get a tour guide or someone to show us around?***

Our education coordinator will welcome your group and talk about the rules and latest information on our animals - show you locations of toilets etc. After this, you can self-guide yourselves around the complex, on busier days we will give more direction. While it is good to have a plan, it is also a good idea to be flexible in terms of fitting in with our advice on the day – we are aiming to give you the best possible visit. Butterfly Creek is not a huge complex, so it is easy to find your way around.

### ***Should we split into groups or can we all go together? What if we have a large group?***

For groups with over 20 people we recommend you split into groups, we can help with this. For numbers less than this you can all go around together. Please refer to the encounter times for things that you may want to do and see as a group. If you have a very large group, we will do our best to make sure you can see everything by organizing a group rotation.

### ***What do we do if it is raining? Is there somewhere to eat and can we still visit everything?***

Butterfly Creek is 50% undercover, so it is suitable in wet weather, exhibits undercover can be visited when it is raining. The train still operates when it rains, jackets may be needed. On cold days clothing

layers is a good idea as the Butterfly House can get up to 30 degrees. A larger area of our courtyard is under a large sail and we encourage groups to eat there on wet days.

***Can we bring in our own food?***

We allow groups to bring their own packed lunch (not takeaways) but it must be consumed in the courtyard area, not in the café. If you are allocated a room for your visit, you may also eat in there, however we ask that you use the rubbish bins provided and leave the room clean and tidy

***Do you have highchairs, changing facilities and somewhere to heat bottles?***

Yes, we have highchairs, these can be moved to the courtyard if desired. We have two changing tables situated in the parent's room by the courtyard. If you would like to heat up a baby bottle please ask one of our café staff.

***Is there somewhere to leave our bags?***

Depending on the day and how many group bookings we have, it may be possible to allocate a room for you to use during your visit to us. Priority for rooms go to the bigger groups that have requested education talks. So we suggest keeping schoolbags light so student can carry them.

***Can we take prams around?***

Yes, they can go everywhere in Butterfly Creek. There is one carriage on the train for buggies/prams that fits 1 or 2. So if there are 5 buggies in one group, some will need to be left on the platform. The train comes back to the same point so you can leave them there.

***When does the train go and how many times can we go on it? How many people does it fit?***

If you tick the train option on the booking form, we will let you know when your private group train ride will commence - it will go around the track twice. The train fits approx. 25-30 people but we will ensure everybody gets a ride. We come back to the same point, so prams and bags can be left on the platform.

***Are there any Education Resources we can use?***

Yes, once your booking is confirmed our education coordinator will be happy to forward on our ECE Resource booklet which includes Mix & Match, Life Cycles and more and is great for children aged 3-5yrs.

## Butterfly Creek Group Booking Rules

*This is a wonderful opportunity to teach children how to show care and respect for animals. When you visit the animals at Butterfly Creek, they are in their homes, this is where they live. These are some things that we can do so the animals feel safe and happy in their homes... Please go over these rules with your group prior to your visit*

- In some areas it is important that we are quiet with our voices and walk softly with our feet as loud noise is very scary for the animals especially by - the aquarium, in the butterfly house, crocs area and in the petting shed with the rabbits and guinea pigs it.
- No running if possible, especially in and around the croc and kiwi enclosures.
- We ask that there be silence on the crocodile decks during the 1pm feeding. This is for the safety of the keepers. The keepers will not enter the enclosure or will stop the feeding if it becomes too loud.
- We are kind, soft and gentle with the animals here at Butterfly Creek.
- Children are encouraged to stroke baby rabbits and guinea pigs but are not allowed to pick them up and walk around.
- Take turns gently and to be seated when doing so. If children are rough or noisy the farm supervisor will put the animals back in their pens to keep them safe, happy and relaxed.
- Butterflies can't hurt you and will land on people, but it is important that we don't try to pull at them or catch them as that could break their wings.
- We never throw anything at insects, butterflies, animals or fish.
- No tapping on the glass that the animals are behind.
- On the train platform we keep right away from the train if it is moving past the platform.
- When riding the train, we keep our arms and hands inside the carriage and always stay sitting down.
- In Dinosaur Kingdom we are gentle with the dinosaurs being careful not to pull their teeth or damage them in any way.
- Respect our plants and property
- No eating or drinking in the animal exhibits
- Put their rubbish in the bins provided and please only eat in the designated eating areas (playground, courtyard)

*The areas Teachers/Supervisors/Adults need to diligently supervise are the train platform, butterflies landing on children, stroking animals in the petting shed, and noise when the crocodile show is on.*