

Gaze turns outdoors as early learning centre tenders close

AS tenders have come to a close for the building works for the new Bright Early Years Learning Centre (BEYLC) the consideration and planning for the outside space is now key on the agenda.

An external landscape architect firm (Somewhere Landscapes Architects) has been appointed by Coffey Projects to develop a draft concept plan.

This plan will include regulation requirements and Cancer Council shade requirements, which is expected to be complete later this month.

Pattie Morgan, who is a Melbourne-based outdoor play, education and design consultant

with more than 20 years' experience as a kindergarten teacher, visited Bright on Wednesday, October 26 to conduct a site visit of the proposed outside space and run a professional development staff workshop.

"I believe that the way we arrange the space can have both a positive and a negative effect on children's behavior, so we will be promoting design ideas that will encourage positive behaviors and safe play," Ms Morgan said.

"Alpine Children's Services (ACS) is now forming a small outside learning space project team.

"We are putting out an expression of interest for community members,

organisation representatives and parents who share a love of gardening, who may have some technical skills in garden planning and construction, who are positive and can volunteer a few hours a month."

Ms Morgan also visited the existing Bright and District Kindergarten, Lyndhurst Children's Centre and Bright Playgroup to further understand current play spaces.

She talked to staff that use the playgrounds about what they wanted.

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