

# Care for nature, I can do it!



Don't  
pick plants



Don't  
pull plants



Don't take away  
any stone, flower,  
leaf and  
small animal  
from nature



Don't  
disturb animals



Don't litter



Keep quiet



Save water



Don't  
pollute water



Don't  
catch insects



Map of Hong Kong Wetland Park

Legend



Ticket Office

P1

Car Park



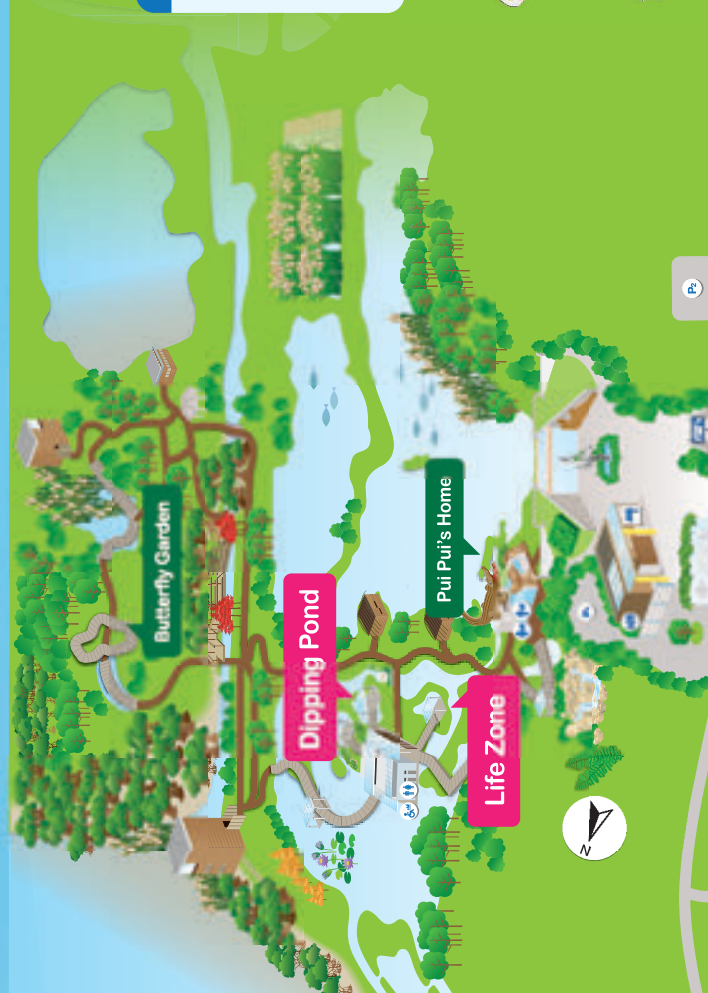
Toilet

P2

Overflow Car Park



Baby Changing



# Wetland Footprints

Learning Activity Resource Package  
Education Bureau

## Parent Leaflet



Education Bureau



Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department



## Words to Parents

Children aged 3-6 should accumulate at least 180 minutes of physical activity, which can be split into several bouts daily, including light, moderate and vigorous levels of activities<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, one of the ideal and healthy parent-child activities over the weekends is to have outdoor fun, breathe in fresh air and take the opportunity to learn about the natural environment.

Children's learning experience can be enriched and their areas of knowledge broadened through their personal observation and experience in a natural environment. Their first-hand learning experience is more effective than learning through teaching kits and workbooks from the market<sup>2</sup>.

The Hong Kong Wetland Park enables parents to explore the nature with their children. The Park is located at Tin Shui Wai, comprising a 60-hectare wetland reserve and a 10,000m<sup>2</sup> visitor centre. It is a good place for us to learn about a vast diversity of living organisms and environment of wetland.

To provide appropriate outdoor environment and facilities for children to have exploration, play and various activity-based experiences, in collaboration with Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and capitalising on part of the outdoor facilities at Hong Kong Wetland Park to serve the functions of resource centres for KGs, EDB has produced a Learning Activity Resource Package **"Wetland Footprints"** for teachers' use. The package ties in with the learning objectives of "Nature and Living"<sup>3</sup> in the *Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide (2017)* compiled by the Curriculum Development Council, aiming at:

- Cultivating and developing children's curiosity and exploratory spirit;
- Fostering their mastery of sensory exploration / observation methods;
- Understanding the close relationship between nature and human life;
- Developing their respect for, appreciation and sense of treasuring the natural environment and resources; and
- Nurturing their values and attitudes about care for nature.

To meet the above aims, we have produced this leaflet for parents' reference.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health (2014). *Physical Activity Guide for Children Aged 2 to 6*.

<sup>2</sup> Education Bureau & Curriculum Development Institute (2007).

*Guide to the Pre-primary Curriculum - Parent Booklet*.

<sup>3</sup> Curriculum Development Council (2017). *Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide*.

## Proposed Parent-child Activities

Parents can go to the Hong Kong Wetland Park with their children for parent-child activities.

### Preparation Before the Activities

- Before the visit, browse the Hong Kong Wetland Park's website for ticketing and admission information, as well as the wetland animals and plants of the month and their uniqueness.
- Bring along paper/sketchbooks and pens/colour pens to record what you see and hear.
- Bring along a camera to record happy moments.

### Activity 1

In the "Life Zone", parents can encourage their children to freely use their various senses to explore the wildlife in the surroundings. Parents can demonstrate how to smell the scent of plants properly and breathe in fresh air through their noses. They can also demonstrate how to hear the sounds of the surrounding area with their ears, such as the sound of running water and bird calls, to stimulate children's curiosity and enhance their learning motivation.

When getting close to the pond, parents and children can observe the animals and plants in the water, such as Pitcher Plant, Frail Horsetail, Golden Apple Snail, tadpoles, dragonflies and so on, with their eyes from a short distance. They can discuss about the morphology and living environment of animals and plants. Parents can also give their children support in a timely manner and introduce the name and information of the animals and plants by referring to the signages placed near the plants and the pond.

### Activity 2

Parents and children can sit in the pavilion at the center of "Dipping Pond" or walk around the Park to admire the beauty of nature quietly. Parents can also encourage their children to draw the beautiful scenery on a paper. During the process, apart from big trees and Lotuses, children may also see different small insects and animals. They can also use the camera to take some beautiful pictures.

### Activity 3

The Hong Kong Wetland Park is a resourceful place. If time allows, parents can bring their children to visit the crocodile at "Pui Pui's Home". They can also draw and design a new home for it. Moreover, they can visit "Butterfly Garden" to appreciate different kinds of butterflies and plants, and imitate butterflies' dances with creativity.

## Roles of Parents

### Setting Good Examples

Actions speak louder than words and children imitate parents' behaviours. Parents should express their strong interest in animals, plants and environment of wetland, and demonstrate how to explore nature through multiple senses, such as using eyes to appreciate landscape, ears to hear the nature, hands to feel the plants gently, and nose to smell their scents, so as to stimulate children's curiosity and strengthen their learning motivation.

### Adjustment of Mind Set

Most parents in Hong Kong put more emphasis on academic aspect than play. Through outdoor activities in nature, parents and children can relax their bodies and minds, and learn about different animals and plants, as well as the natural environment.

### Values & Attitude

During interaction with children, parents should guide them to understand the importance of care to the nature. After returning home, parents and their children can recap their experience in the Hong Kong Wetland Park and implement an environmentally friendly lifestyle, for example, turning off the tap while brushing teeth to save water.

Active support, feedback, encouragement, and praise given by parents during interaction with children can foster children's learning motivation.

### Safety Concern

As children lack sense of safety and crisis, parents should pay attention to the surrounding environment and remind children to give due regard to safety.

