



LITTLE FARMERS

BIG HEARTS

SCHOOL ANIMAL EDUCATION INCURSION

Bringing the Farm to the Classroom

CONNECT • LEARN • CARE

Prepared for: School Principals, Leadership Teams & Teachers

Business: Little Farmers Big Hearts • Location: Thornlands, Queensland

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1. Introduction

Little Farmers Big Hearts offers authentic, hands-on farm-based learning experiences that bring real animals directly to school students. The program is designed to turn children's natural curiosity into meaningful learning through observation, questioning, discovery and respectful animal interaction.

“We believe children learn best when they can see, touch, observe, ask questions and experience learning for themselves.”

2. Curriculum Connections

The incursion can complement Queensland classroom programs through the Australian Curriculum, with particularly strong links to Science, Sustainability, Food & Fibre, HASS, Health & Wellbeing, Literacy and Mathematics.

Science – Biological Sciences

- Living and non-living things
- Animal needs, growth and development
- Life cycles and reproduction
- Body parts, features and adaptations
- Animal behaviour and communication
- Habitats and ecosystems
- Observation, questioning, investigation and communication

Sustainability & Food and Fibre

- Animal care and responsible farming
- Food production and where food comes from
- Water, waste and resource use
- Biodiversity and habitats
- Sustainable agriculture and environmental responsibility

HASS, Literacy, Mathematics & Wellbeing

- Farmers, communities and Australian agriculture
- Observation journals, information reports and vocabulary
- Counting, measuring, weighing, recording data and graphing
- Empathy, kindness, responsibility, patience and respect

3. Animals & Learning Opportunities

Animal	Learning focus
Chickens	Life cycles, eggs, feathers, beaks and feet, behaviour, diet and responsible care.
Ducks	Water adaptations, waterproof feathers, webbed feet, ducklings and habitat.
Geese	Communication, flock behaviour, physical adaptations and social behaviour.
Turkeys	Feathers, communication, diet, growth, behaviour and bird anatomy.
Goats	Hooves, horns, browsing, digestion, social behaviour and farming.
Sheep	Wool, shearing, grazing, breeds, life cycles and agriculture.
Donkeys	Hooves, teeth, ears, body language, diet, behaviour and working animals.
Guinea Pigs	Small-animal care, herbivorous diets, teeth, habitat, social behaviour and gentle handling.
Snakes	Anatomy, scales, movement, camouflage, diet, habitat, ecosystems and safe wildlife awareness.

4. Learning Through Observation

Students are encouraged to become young scientists using a simple inquiry cycle:

LOOK → ASK → PREDICT → OBSERVE → DISCOVER → DISCUSS

For example: Why does a duck have webbed feet? Why does a chicken have feathers? Students observe real animals, make predictions, discuss evidence and connect features to survival.

5. Suggested Age-Based Learning

- Kindy – Year 2: Animal names and features; what animals eat; habitats; basic life cycles; animal sounds; gentle and safe care.
- Years 3 – 4: Life cycles; adaptations; habitats; food chains; animal behaviour; classification; food production; sustainability.
- Years 5 – 6: Adaptation and survival; ecosystems; interdependence; environmental impacts; sustainable agriculture; scientific inquiry; animal welfare; food and fibre.

6. Suggested Incursion Formats

60-Minute Program

- 10 min – Welcome and introduction
- 20 min – Animal discovery and observation
- 15 min – Supervised hands-on learning
- 10 min – Science, sustainability and animal care
- 5 min – Questions and reflection

90-Minute Program

- Introduction to farm animals
- Animal classification and needs
- Life cycles and adaptations
- Hands-on animal encounters
- Food and fibre
- Sustainability and animal welfare
- Student questions and reflection

7. Before & After the Incursion

Before the Visit

- Choose an animal to research
- Write three questions
- Draw an animal and label its features
- Predict what it eats and where it lives
- Discuss what animals need to survive

After the Visit

- Write what was discovered
- Create an animal fact sheet
- Compare two animals
- Create a life-cycle diagram
- Write an information report
- Record observations or develop a new scientific question

8. Inclusion & Accessibility

Little Farmers Big Hearts aims to make animal learning accessible to a wide range of students. Programs can be adapted to allow additional time, reduced sensory stimulation, observation from a distance, smaller group interactions, alternative participation methods and additional support where appropriate.



9. Animal Welfare & Safety

Animal welfare is central to the program. Students are taught that animals are living beings, not toys. Interaction is supervised and based on gentle handling, quiet voices, respecting animal boundaries and recognising animal cues. Snake presentations, where offered, are carefully managed with appropriate safety, supervision and animal-welfare procedures.

10. Benefits for Schools

- Curriculum-linked real-world learning
- Hands-on engagement and authentic experiences
- Memorable learning through direct observation
- Opportunities for inclusive participation
- Connection with local agriculture, animals and community
- Flexible programs that can complement current classroom units

11. Proposed School Partnership

Little Farmers Big Hearts would love to work with schools on an ongoing basis, not simply as a one-off visit.

- One-off school incursions
- Year-level programs
- Term-based animal education
- Curriculum-linked Science days
- Farm animal and Sustainability days
- Animal care workshops
- Special school events
- Small-group educational sessions
- Follow-up classroom resources

Through animals, children can discover science. Through farming, children can understand sustainability. Through hands-on experiences, children can develop curiosity. And through caring for animals, children can learn compassion, responsibility and respect.



Our Proposal

We welcome the opportunity to meet with the Principal and relevant teaching staff to discuss how a Little Farmers Big Hearts incursion could complement the school's existing learning programs. We would be happy to discuss year levels, curriculum focus, student numbers, suitable animals, program length, safety requirements, animal welfare, learning outcomes, school-specific requirements, pricing and packages.

“Connect. Learn. Care.”



Contact

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