

Sun and UV at School Challenge

Junior division winners – Sienna, Sienna and Olivia
Wyrallah Road Public School, Lismore



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Senior division winner - Clara Namdarian, Rozelle Public School





Sun & UV Safe Space Design

By Clara Namdarlan

Year 4, Rozelle Public School

I know I'm speaking for my class when I say we've all had fun about learning to protect ourselves from the sun's rays. It's been a great experience designing these spaces. All of us have tried but only some of us can win but I know that's OK because we all, across Australia, had an opportunity to use our brains. My space is 20m wide by 10m deep and based in an urban area with a building along the back of the area. It's designed for all ages and has a variety of options and areas for kids and adults to play in or just relax.

The features in my space:

- 1) A timber, oak and gum treehouse with a balcony out the front and a front door with a round, glass window on the front. There are different shaped windows and wooden boards around the front to give off a playful look. Kids enter by climbing up a ladder.
- 2) There's a field with no specific line markings because kids can bring their own balls and play any sport they want. It's also an area, when no one is playing any sport, to sit down and chat or play games such as tips.
- 3) There's a sandpit under the treehouse. Cozy and humble. The sandpit is fit into an area that children can get into by climbing under the supports of the treehouse where it is shady and cool. There are buckets and spades that they can play with.
- 4) On the right-hand of the wall there's a rock-climbing wall. The space has handles, grooves, dents, holes and knobs to help children climb safely and easily. Even if they fall, underneath it, there's comfortable grass to support them (read point 15 below).
- 5) On the left side of the playground there's a bike track. Every few metres along it, there's a crossing and mini traffic lights to make it more like a proper road. Kids can bring their scooters and bikes along to ride on the bike track.
- 6) In the middle of the bike track, there's a small space for relaxing and stopping if kids need a break. There's a lavender bush, a banksia tree, soft grass and bike racks. The pillar for holding up the shade cloth is also here.
- 7) Around the space there are small places for hide and seek. The purpose of these places is to make it easier to play hide and seek or spies. The spaces include wooden boxes, barrels and trees around the area but are also used to provide shade.
- 8) Just below the treehouse there is a shallow stream. In the middle is a tap with two drains at both ends. The stream is surrounded by smooth rocks and is used for cooling kids down on hot days and allowing safe water play.
- 9) Next to the climbing wall is a mural that celebrates children from all over the world. It's a fun and bright decoration that stands out and adds welcoming feeling in the space.
- 10) Under each tree surrounding the treehouse is a ring of flowers. Each ring includes different types such as carnations and tulips. These decorate the area, give of a warm feeling and send a pleasant smell into the air and support bees and insects.
- 11) Some of the protection from the sun includes shade cloths. These sheets of material protect people by providing vast amounts of shade. They can be bright, warm colours that add to the cheerfulness of the area.
- 12) The trees are huge and wide, so they give great amounts of shade to areas. Two of the trees that I have chosen are deciduous, so they provide more shade in Summer and less in Winter when the UV levels are low, and less sun protection is needed.
- 13) Around the space are grass areas where children can run around, relax, burn off energy or have picnics with their friends or families. The areas are in between all the spaces described about already.

I hand-drew my design and coloured it in with pencils. I live near the city so my plan was inspired by the urban spaces where I live and the idea that we can transform built, urban spaces into green, sun-safe play spaces where the community can have fun and meet new people and friends.



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