



WWOOF™ Australia
World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms
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WWOOFing as a Family

WWOOFers traveling with young children and teenagers under 18 should join on a Dual membership and set up a WWOOF Profile with photos to introduce their family to WWOOF Hosts.

WWOOFing can be a very positive experience for young children and their families, good planning and communication helps ensure success.

Hosts all provide accommodation, so bringing your own is not necessary, but some families choose to travel with their own accommodation such as a tent, camper van or caravan which gives them privacy, a familiar bed, routine and a space to retreat to if they feel they need it. Every family and child is different, so choose the option that suits your family and your budget.

Many host farms welcome children by arrangement - please look at a Host's profile to check. The quickest way to find these hosts on the List and Map search is to tick the Children By Arrangement field to filter the search. Non-commercial farms are generally better suited for younger children as the pace tends to be more casual.

The most important point to make is that - please - never WWOOF with children except by prior arrangement with the Host.

We recommend families begin their WWOOFing with short visits and then negotiate longer visits if everyone is happy. WWOOFing is about helping the Host, so it is important to ensure your children understand they are there to help.

Hosts will generally find age appropriate tasks for children and teens and will try to give them interesting things to do, you can help the host to ensure the tasks they assign fit within their interests and abilities.

Children and teens must be supervised at all times, you cannot just tell them to go and amuse themselves. Farms can be dangerous places - they are workplaces and have different dangers to those your child may be familiar with. Ask hosts to give a safety induction to ensure your family is aware of any local risk factors, along with what to do, and who to contact in an emergency.

Please keep in mind that the Host will be feeding and accommodating several people in exchange for their help, so offering a contribution to the cost of food might be welcomed if you feel your child's appetite outweighs their helpfulness. It is always a good idea to discuss this with your hosts and keep the lines of communication open to ensure they are as happy with your families visit as you are with their hospitality.

Many Hosts have limited resources, which is why they ask for WWOOF help. You might be required to bring your child's food, each Host is different and this should be discussed during your arrangement set up.

Some Host farms are in remote places and those with children welcome the company of others. Being remote means that you need to carry everything your child might need since popping down to the local shop won't always be possible.

Internet and mobile phone coverage is often limited, it is important to ensure your children understand that they may be having screen free time. Hosts with satellite Internet may be on small and expensive data plans, so they may limit access to email checking etc, activities that require large amounts of data will most often not be possible.

At many farms there will be other WWOOFers - some will like children, others may not - and you may well be sharing living spaces and have to consider the fact that everyone, including yourself, needs a good nights sleep after a hard days volunteering. Please ensure your children are respectful of their needs.



We receive many reports of excellent WWOOFers with children but there have also been some disastrous ones. Those that go wrong, are usually due to poor arrangements prior to the visit - expecting behaviour from the child beyond their capabilities at that time - or expecting unreasonable facilities from the Host. Good planning, choosing your host carefully and good communication are the key to successfully WWOOFing with children.

Here are some links to some families that have WWOOFed with children:

[Hitting the Road – The Gathering Folk – Shay and Dean – S01E01](#) - WWOOFers Shay & Dean produced a series about their time WWOOFing around Australia with their young daughter: here is the first episode to inspire you!

[WWOOFers Christi and Jay](#) - A blog about their first WWOOFing experience travelling with their children.

[Blog about the Maislin's](#), (Gami, Seth, Siena & Oren) an adventurous family from the USA who decided to WWOOF in Australia – by WWOOF Australia.

[Miller Family's](#) – WWOOF Australia story in Earth Garden Magazine.