

Inspirations...

*"Just when the caterpillar thought the World was over,
it became a butterfly." - Proverb*



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 Creating Outdoor Experiences & Designs

LEARNING BY NATURE

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Sprouting Ideas in Your Classroom



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 Creating Outdoor Experiences & Designs

Ideas

A Learning Landscape is an outdoor area that supports physical activity, play, learning, and improved social interaction. Other names you may hear for areas that emphasize similar outcomes include: Playscape, Outdoor Classroom, School Garden.

Community Contacts

When provided with a natural landscape in which to play, children showed a statistically significant increase in motor fitness. (Fjørtoft, 2004)



Funding & Donations

Grant Wrangler Funding Directory- a free grants listing service. Find funding, search grants by keywords, subscribe to a monthly e-newsletter.

www.grantwrangler.com

School Garden Wizard- funding links www.schoolgardenwizard.org

National Farm to School Network- funding opps and links

www.farmentoschool.org

Captain Planet Foundation- up to \$500 for materials only, online application, 1/4ly deadlines. www.captainplanetfdn.org

Gardner's Supply- small grants www.gardeners.com

Project Learning Tree 'Green Works' grants. www.plt.org

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program offers grants to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in the school and/or school district. www.tapestry.nsta.org

Foundation Center- directory of private grant making foundations, some info requires membership. www.foundationcenter.org

Ideas

It's a natural fit! Next steps...

What is 1 thing you can do next week to incorporate nature and the outdoors into learning and play?

...next month:

...next season:

...next year:

For a guide to easy nature play ideas visit www.greenheartsinc.org

Obstacles & Solutions

An increasing amount of evidence is showing that exposure to natural environments can mitigate a child's attention disorder. Children had better attentional functioning after activities in greener settings. The greener the setting, the less severe the symptoms of the child's attention disorder. (Taylor, 2001)

Curriculum, Activities, Research

Children's Environmental Literature List- bibliography for pre-12gr. www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/teacher/childlit.htm

School Garden Wizard- 'how to' activities, guides, funding sources, and keeping it growing for school gardens. www.schoolgardenwizard.org

National Environmental Education Foundation, Children & Nature Initiative- teaching, planning resources, supporting stats. www.neefusa.org/health/children_nature and also www.eeweek.org

Kids Gardening - great resources for garden related projects, courses, curriculum, activities, supplies www.kidsgardening.org

National Farm to School Network- register your project on their website, funding, curriculum, resources www.farmentoschool.org

Children & Nature Network- a movement to re-connect children to the outdoors, articles, networking. www.childrenandnature.org

Gardner's Supply- retail, resources, planning, small grants www.gardeners.com

Center for Ecoliteracy- pioneering work with school gardens, school lunches, integrating ecological principles and sustainability into school curricula. www.ecoliteracy.org

Promise of Place- Place Based Education- promotes learning rooted in local history, environment, culture, economy, literature, and art of a particular place, as a foundation for cross-curricular studies. www.promiseofplace.org