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C&NN's Natural Teachers Network: Take the Pledge!

Web Resources to help teachers use the natural world as a classroom

We hope that you find the following list to be a useful reference. This initial list is not comprehensive and will be augmented as new and relevant resources are discovered. Please send us your suggestions for additions by writing to info@childrenandnature.org. We will not be able to include every suggestion, but we will review every recommendation. We are especially interested in resources offered by credible organizations with a capacity to respond to inquiries. We also encourage you to post suggestions for resources on C&NN Connect at www.childrenandnature.NING.com. Thanks for your commitment to reconnecting children with nature!

KEY:

-  **Nature-Related Information, Guides, and Activities**
-  **Schools, Colleges and Universities, and other Educational Organizations with Nature-Based Learning**
-  **After-School Organizations that Partner with Schools for Continuing Nature-Based Learning**

Organization/Affiliation	Website	Description
Arbor Day Foundation	www.natureexplore.org	This Nature Explore site has information on designing natural outdoor spaces, training for educators, and ways to get children involved with nature. There are several publications available for purchase that encourages nature play.

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National Institute for Play	http://www.nifplay.org/	A website with information about the value of play and instructional resources for conducting and encouraging play.
Environmental Education in Kentucky	http://eeinkentucky.org	A website to find environmental education opportunities in the state. This website allows you to locate organizations and events across the Commonwealth.
Let's Go Outside	http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/	Information for educators on the benefits of connecting with nature, with an interactive database to find natural areas in your region.
National Park Service	http://www.nps.gov/kidszone/park_fun.html	A list of resources for families to get outside. All resources have links to more information.
National Wildlife Federation	http://www.greenhour.org/	Includes nature activities, blog, and information about the importance of getting kids outside in nature.
Nature Circles-Hooked on Nature	http://www.naturecircles.org/	Provides a how-to guide to start a nature circle. Its goal is to introduce children to nature with simple activities in a safe, group setting.
Children and Nature Network	http://www.childrenandnature.org/natureclubs	This is the one-stop shop for anyone interested in learning about the movement to reconnect children with nature. See the most current research on why children need unstructured time in nature, as well as a list with links to initiatives across the country. Tips, inspiration, and resources for joining with other teachers to take students outside to learn.
Richard Louv	http://richardlouv.com/children-nature-resources	Here are helpful resources for parents, teachers, and community leaders to encourage children's enjoyment of the great outdoors. Included are nature activities, suggested books, and useful links.
Suite 101.com	http://familytravel.suite101.com/article.cfm/nature_games_for_urban_children	An article that outlines some nature activities appropriate for children living in urban environments.
Dunwoody Nature Center	http://www.dunwoodynature.org/do/homeschool.html	This is a nature center-led nature club for homeschoolers . Meeting schedule and themes are listed on site.
Active Kids Club-	http://www.activekidsclub.com/index.html	Active Kids Club has information about the benefits from

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Canada		being outside. They also provide tips for playing outside in all seasons, and for how to create an outdoor playgroup.
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department	http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/ChildrenInNature/index.htm	Provides information on New Hampshire's Take a Child Outside week, and describes several hands-on nature-based activities to connect children and families with nature. Links to studies, too.
Recreational Equipment, Inc.	www.rei.com	REI is known for outdoor gear and apparel for all ages. They also offer adventure packages and are committed to enabling people to have positive experiences in the outdoors. They also sponsor in-store workshops that promote outdoor recreation. A list of local family hikes is easily downloaded from their Web site.
Dawn Publications	www.dawnpublications.com	Dawn Publications' mission is to assist parents and educators to open the minds and hearts of children to the transforming influence of nature. They have a wonderful selection of books available for purchase on their Web site.
Project Learning Tree	http://www.learnoutside.org/home.html	Project Learning Tree has developed an Activity Guide for educators to use in the outdoors.
Project WILD	http://www.projectwild.org/	One of the most widely used environmental education programs used by educators. New early learning publication called Growing Up Wild now available.
DIY Preschool	http://diypreschool.blogspot.com/2007/02/13-great-nature-activities-for-very.html	This blog suggests 13 simple activities/experiences to do with young children.
NAAEE	http://www.naaee.org	Education-based organization with many hands-on nature-related early childhood activities to spark the creative imagination.
National Environmental Education Foundation	http://www.neefusa.org/about/index.htm	Through a variety of programs for teachers in all disciplines, one of NEEF's core focus areas is environmental literacy for children.
U.S. Play Coalition	http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu/	Resources and research on the value of play.

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Waldorf School of Saratoga	www.waldorfsaratoga.org	A nature-based private pre-school through high school system located throughout the U.S. New outdoor education program in Saratoga called Nature Kindergarten.
Audubon Society	http://www.audubon.org/	Education and conservation organization with many programs, and a special focus on urban nature places.
High School for Environmental Studies	http://envirostudies.org/	New York City public high school with a 97% graduation rate focused on environmental curriculum and a summer intern partnership with The Nature Conservancy.
LNCI Greater Cincinnati	http://www.lncigc.org/guide/tips.shtml	Very successful after-school program in close collaboration with public schools. There is a tremendous amount of information on the movement to reconnect children and families with nature.
Wilderness Awareness School	http://www.wildernessawareness.org/coyotesguide.html?gclid=CKGK84XgspcCFQquGgodh32ljg	This group provides training for parents, teachers, and mentors. They also have a book to purchase called “Coyote’s Guide to Connecting with Nature.”
National Afterschool Association	http://naaweb.site-ym.com/	Large and diverse group of after-school professionals dedicated to the development, care and education of children and youth during their out of school hours.
4-H National Council	http://4-h.org/4hstory.html	National youth development organization affiliated with land grant universities in every state.