



# Workshops for Educators

**Engaging, inspiring Nature Explore workshops provide research-based, field-tested activities and resources that support comprehensive learning with nature. Designed for adults who work with children in many ways (from schools to early childhood settings to environmental education programs), each hands-on Nature Explore Workshop described on these pages is offered regionally or may be scheduled at your own site.**

## Using Your Outdoor Classroom

Experience interesting techniques for using outdoor classrooms as an integral part of children's daily learning. Find out how well-designed outdoor spaces facilitate healthy physical, emotional, intellectual and social development in a variety of settings (from schools to early childhood programs to public spaces). Discover strategies for assessing children's learning, meeting teaching standards, alleviating challenging behaviors and bringing more joy to learning.

## Learning With Nature

Explore some of the common barriers that keep children from creating positive connections with the natural world, and discover ways families and educators can counteract them. Experience a multitude of engaging hands-on ideas for supporting the nature-child connection. Helpful resources for incorporating learning with nature into both outdoor and indoor classrooms will be shared.

## Documenting Children's Learning with Nature

Discover effective methods for supporting and documenting children's learning indoors and outdoors, and for helping children with behavioral challenges and verbal-language delays become more successful. Learn how to "listen" to children's visual-spatial language, and explore helpful tips for successfully using a documentation tool called "Nature Notes" to record children's learning in outdoor classrooms.

## We Dig Dirt

*Supporting Infants and Toddlers in Outdoor Classrooms*

Explore effective ways to facilitate meaningful infant and toddler learning experiences in well-designed outdoor spaces. Discover practical strategies for addressing some of the challenges of working with very young children outdoors. Gain ideas for helping infants and toddlers explore the natural world and grow up with a sense of wonder.

## We Dig Deeper

Experience effective and engaging ways to document infant and toddler learning with nature. Watch and discuss video of educators supporting very young children in a variety of nature-based outdoor spaces. Develop strategies for choosing natural materials that meet the unique needs of infants and toddlers.

## Moving to Learn

Discover effective techniques for providing indoor and outdoor movement activities that help children develop body control, gain knowledge about the world, and enjoy an outlet for emotional expression. Explore how motor development is important for children's neural processing, especially for kinesthetic learners. Learn ways joyful movement experiences can help support children's individual needs and behavior challenges.

## The Importance of Visual-Spatial Learning

Discover tools for providing more authentic learning opportunities for children in both built and natural environments and through purposeful movement. Gain a deeper understanding of why visual-spatial learning is important and how the visual-spatial learner is often misunderstood. Explore techniques for supporting each child's unique talents and abilities, and ways to use the natural world as a link to oral and written literacy.

## Music and Nature

Explore interesting techniques for using the inspiration of nature to strengthen children's musical understandings. Discover nature-based musical experiences that help children develop both their love for music and their delight in the natural world.

## The Arts and Nature

Discover engaging art experiences inspired by nature that help children make deeper connections with the world around them. Experience the Look-Move-Build-Sketch planning tool that encourages multi-faceted arts exploration. Learn helpful strategies for supporting each child's individual needs, especially children with sensory integration challenges.

## Nature-Inspired Indoor Environments

Be inspired to think deeply about how well-planned indoor environments can better support children's healthy growth and development as well as decrease behavioral issues. Discover research-based, field-tested ways to create more beautiful and calming spaces by decreasing visual "clutter" and adding interesting materials from the natural world.

## Choosing Effective Indoor and Outdoor Materials

Discover strategies for effectively using a variety of motivating yet inexpensive indoor and outdoor materials, including materials from nature. Explore why adults need to understand the properties of children's materials to best support in-depth, hands-on learning. Experience joyful ways to enhance children's creativity through exploration of natural materials.

## The Wonders of Nature

Develop and rekindle your own "sense of wonder" through this engaging outdoor workshop. Explore activities that can also be used with children to foster deeper connections with the natural world. "Revitalizing, fascinating, and inspiring" are some of the words participants have used to describe this one-of-a-kind experience. This workshop is usually held at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, NE.



**To learn more or to schedule a workshop in your area, contact us at [info@natureexplore.org](mailto:info@natureexplore.org) or call 1-888-908-8733.**