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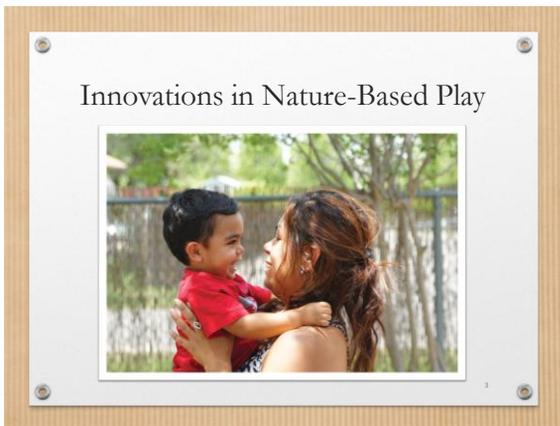
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**Poll**

What are your biggest challenges with nature-based play?



- A. Our outdoor space has no natural areas.
- B. It's too hot/cold to be outside so much of the year.
- C. Other teachers and administrators aren't quite there yet.
- D. I've gotten started with nature-based play. What's next?

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**Theory and Nature-Based Play**

- Developmental Theory
- Interactional Theory
- Constructivist Theory



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**Pathways to Nature-Based Play**



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Teacher as Resourceful Problem-Solver



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Teacher as Emotions Validator



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Curriculum and Nature-Based Play



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## Supporting Nature-Based Play

- “It’s common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.”  
– Franklin Delano Roosevelt



2007/04/19



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## Some things are better outdoors!



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## Messy Play!



- Making berry pies for birds is so fun outside!

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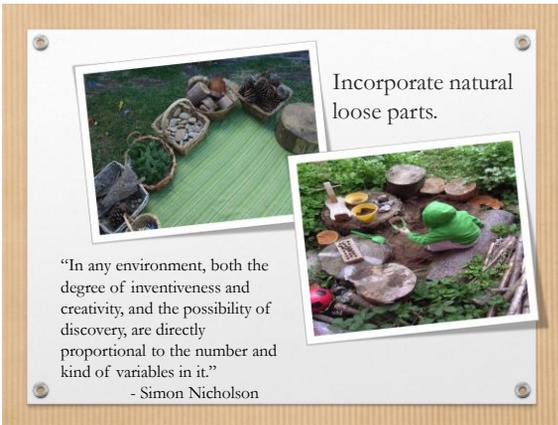
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### Keeping the Momentum

- Use documentation to engage children and families, and to keep the conversation going.



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- Talk daily about what you find in the natural world.
- Make predictions about what might happen next!
- Explore changes together and document your findings.



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- Use the outdoor space to build community in your program.
- Invite families to join in.



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## Considerations for Staff

- If your program does not have an Outdoor Classroom Coordinator, who will be responsible for the play and learning opportunities outside?
- Who will decide which materials will be offered, rotated, and replenished?




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## Early Childhood Educators Partner with Environmental Educators

- Early childhood environmental education programs - guidelines for excellence. (2016). Washington, DC: North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).

PDF available online:

[https://cdn.naaee.org/sites/default/files/final\\_ecce\\_guidelines\\_from\\_chromographics\\_lo\\_res.pdf](https://cdn.naaee.org/sites/default/files/final_ecce_guidelines_from_chromographics_lo_res.pdf)




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## Explore Activities in Nature

- Master Gardeners
- Master Naturalists
- State Park Naturalists
- Nature Centers
- Arboretums
- Zoos
- Landscape Designers
- Nature Explore
- Forest Service
- Project Learning Tree
- Project WILD
- Add Environmental Education to your professional development.




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### Developing Your Outdoor Playscape



Good design often means creating something that is both **functional** and **beautiful**.

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### Create places to spark the imagination.



Is that a toad house or a fairy house?

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- Design places for children and adults to be together in your outdoor playscape.



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• Bring art and music outside.



A collage of four photographs showing outdoor art projects. The top-left photo shows wind chimes hanging from a tree. The top-right photo shows a colorful caterpillar made of pipe cleaners and pom-poms. The bottom-left photo shows a colorful garden with various shaped flowers. The bottom-right photo shows a colorful tower made of pipe cleaners and pom-poms.

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The Child's Point of View

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Considering Safety



To play is to risk; to risk is to play.  
- Diane Ackerman

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- Allow developmentally appropriate risk-taking.



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- Implement risk assessments.



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### Conclusion: Who Benefits from Nature-Based Play?



Benefits for Children

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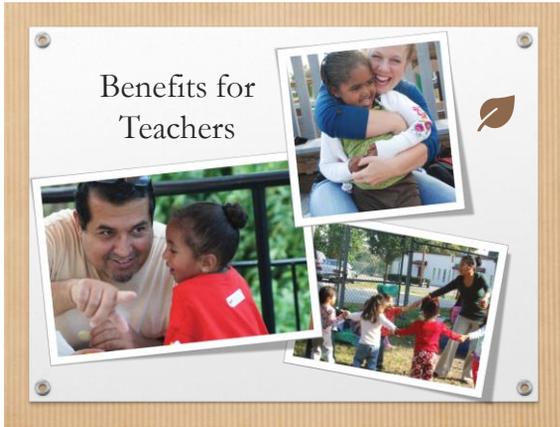
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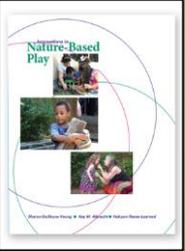
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## Contact Information

- Sharon DuShane-Young:  
[sharonyng@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonyng@yahoo.com)
- Kay M. Albrecht:  
[kay@innovationsinece.com](mailto:kay@innovationsinece.com)
- Halcyon Reese-Learned:  
[halcyrl@gmail.com](mailto:halcyrl@gmail.com)
- Learn more about  
*Innovations in Nature-Based Play* at  
[www.innovationsinece.com](http://www.innovationsinece.com)



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