

Nature Play

Further development for practitioners

MY
NATURE
PLAY

Engagement with research, pedagogical practice and relevant organisations will support practitioners who wish to further develop their understanding.



Further exploration

There are a variety of opportunities for staff who wish to expand their knowledge base, and associated pedagogical practice, including access to research papers and professional organisations and networks across the UK. Well informed, knowledgeable staff who share their passion with children are also better equipped to foster understanding and interest amongst parents and families. By helping children develop a strong,

healthy connection with nature, we empower them to become environmental advocates in the future.

“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”

Carson, R. (1998) *The Sense of Wonder*. New York: HarperCollins.

Example support

- David Sobel Play Principles www.davidsobelauthor.com
- Early Years Alliance (England) www.eyalliance.org.uk
- Learning through Landscapes www.ltl.org.uk
- The Froebel Trust www.Froebel.org.uk ‘Children and Nature’.
- British Assoc. for Early Childhood Education www.early-education.org.uk
- Creative Star Learning www.creativestarlearning.co.uk

A life "in and with nature?" Developing nature engaging and nature enhancing pedagogies for babies and toddlers.

This peer reviewed research paper focuses on babies and toddlers and the recognition that whilst being outdoors and in nature has a positive impact, concerns over health and safety and an emphasis on physical activity can mean that natural elements may be discouraged in favour of manufactured alternatives. Through Froebelian philosophy the paper focuses on the limitations of such practice and the need to develop nature engaging and nature enhancing pedagogies from birth.

Search 'Global Education Review', and then the names of the two authors Joanne Josephidou and Nicola Kemp. Published 2022

Promoting a healthy gut biome in children – the role of nature play.

1). Optimising Early Childhood Educational Settings for Health Using Nature-Based Solutions: The Microbiome Aspect

www.mdpi.com Type the title of the paper into the search bar to access.

2). Search for 'The Benefits of Learning to Love Mud' by Allesia Franco and David Robson 2022 www.bbc.co.uk/future/family-tree



Relevant publications and resources

There is a section entitled 'Nature Connection' in the free Outdoor Hub section of the Muddy Faces website, comprising a wide range of articles, publications, research, useful websites and short videos.

www.muddyfaces.co.uk (click 'Outdoor Hub' then 'Nature Connection').