

Resources for Reconnecting Children and Nature

“Healing the broken bond between our young and nature is in everyone’s self-interest, not only because aesthetics or justice demand it, but also because our mental, physical and spiritual health depend on it.” ~ Richard Louv

- Iowa Coalition for Reconnecting Children with Nature
www.iowadnr.gov/education/index.html

The Iowa Coalition for Reconnecting Children with Nature is a new gathering of those who care about reconnecting Iowa’s children and youth to nature. It is an invitation to individuals, entities and organizations to join together to expand opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from nature. The objectives of the group are simple. We want to:

1. Get children outdoors
2. Connect people to resources to get children outdoors
3. Involve others in getting children outdoors

Join the Iowa Coalition for Reconnecting Children to Nature. Just send an email with “Join Coalition” in the subject line to AquaticEd_Info@dnr.iowa.gov.

Currently, the Coalition is working to strengthen networking between efforts and increase collaboration on resources to help get youth and families outdoors.

- Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children
Project WILD early childhood guide; contact the Aquatic Education office (AquaticEd_Info@dnr.iowa.gov) for training opportunities
- Children and Nature Network
www.childrenandnature.org/
- Nature Rocks
www.NatureRocks.org
The goal of this national campaign is to inspire and empower millions of parents to reconnect their families to nature. It provides tools, ideas, and information needed to enjoy fun, inexpensive quality family together and know that everyone is happier, healthier, and smarter with nature.
- Hooked on Nature
www.hookedonnature.org
Nature Circle Cards Set \$5.00
- No backyard? Find your local parks using www.mycountyparks.com/
- KinderNature: A Resource for Childhood Education
<http://kindernature.storycounty.com/>
- National Wildlife Federation’s “Green Hour”
www.greenhour.org
As American childhood has steadily moved indoors in the past 12 to 15 years, outdoor play is increasingly rare. The weekly indoor-outdoor time ratio is now about 10 to one on the indoor side. Our new NWF report, *Time Out: Using the Outdoors to Enhance Classroom Performance* is available at
<http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/Time%20Out%20with%20BOT%20Activities1.pdf>

- 10 Ways to “Be Out There” – Even After School Starts
www.greenhour.org/topten
 Homework, soccer practice, ballet—is there time in the schedule to play? Learn 10 ways to Be Out There, even after school starts.
- Update on **No Child Left Inside** – June 18, 2008 – National Association of Environmental Education
www.naaee.org/ee-advocay
 NCLI was passed, 37-8 with 3 absent, by the Committee on Education and Labor. There were nine amendments introduced and eight were approved.
- Dimensions Educational Research Foundation
www.dimensionsfoundation.org
 The mission of the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation is to inspire children, families, and educators to connect more deeply with the world around them. We do this by providing innovative, research-based programs and resources.
- Nebraska Early Childhood Training Center & Early Learning Guidelines – Connecting Children to Nature
http://ectc.nde.ne.gov/ELG/nature_education.pdf

Great Reads

- Coles, R. (1996). *The Spiritual Life of Children*. New York: T. & T. Clark Publishers, Ltd.
- Cornell, J. (1970). *Sharing Nature with Children*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications.
- Cuppens, V., Rosenow, N., Wike, J.R. (2006). *Learning with Nature Idea Book: Creating Nurturing Outdoor Spaces for Children*. Lincoln, NE: Dimensions Educational Research Foundation and the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- Greenman, J. (2005). *Caring Spaces, Learning Places: Children’s Environments That Work*. Redmond, WA: Exchange Press.
- Louv, R. (2005). *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*. New York: Workman Publishing.
- National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education. *Recess and the Importance of Play: A Position Statement on Young Children and Recess*. Full text available at: <http://naecs.crc.uiuc.edu/position/recessplay.html>.
- Nature Action Collaborative for Children. (2007). *The Nature Action Collaborative for Children’s Mission and Vision*. Full text available at:
www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/nacc/index.php
www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2008_nature/presentations.php
www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/nacc/call_to_action.php