

Urban Nature Connection

Transforming Learning and Well-Being

Our Story

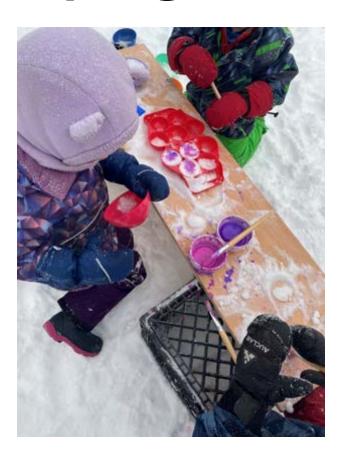


Childhood Memories



Elements to Naturalize Urban Spaces and take your program outdoors

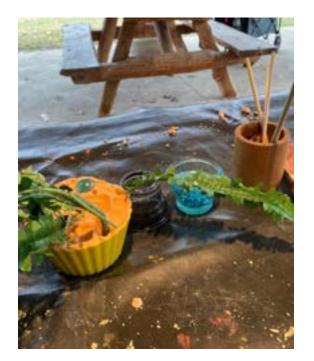


















Gathering Places and Sensory

Loose Parts















Gardens
Family Planting Days, Life Cycle of Plants, Caring for Gardens, Harvest, Cooking and Enjoying the Harvest Together









Use Your Imagination adding items that encourage safe risk taking









Create a Sensory Walkway

Trees













To tap, to climb, life cycles, harvest fruit, places to hide





Bird Feeders

Benefits to the Children



- Gross motor, curiosity, exploration are all richer for children outdoors
- Open areas for movement/opportunities for risky play
- A tranquil place to be alone/rest
- Connections to land, others and self

Benefits overall well-being of the childrenphysical, intellectual, problem solving, resilience, social, mental health, creativity etc

Wild life is attracted to our playspaces

Wild life has been attracted to playspaces eg ducks that return each year – children can experience this first hand – not just read it in a book



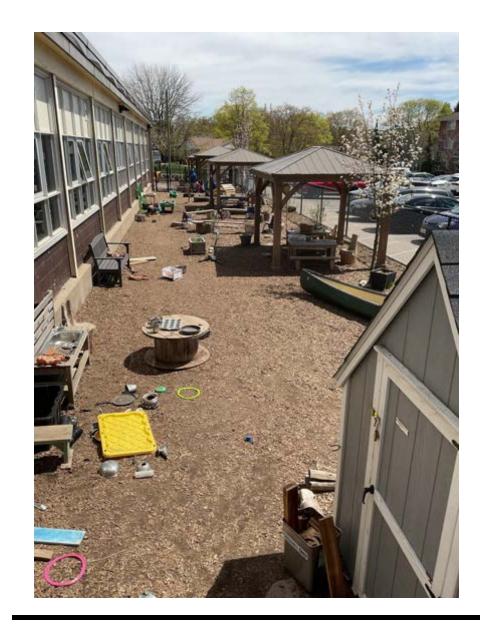
Benefits to Educators

- Curriculum easily emerges through the children's discoveries and interests and connection to the land
- Not redirectly children as much as indoors they are able to run freely, jump, be loud
- As an educator my connection to the land is stronger, learning along with the children and improved mental health
- I feel more energized/benefit overall well-being
- The day is less stressful outdoors with fewer transitions
- Personal joy and professional growth
- · Working in nature feels right for me
- Brings back many fond memories of camping, fishing, fire cooking with my family
- Co-workers are happy, joyful, always smiling makes a lovely work environment
- Job satisfaction seeing a difference in the overall well-being of the children



Faye's Story Why I left a job that I loved?

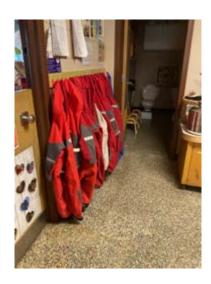
What would you need as an educator to be successful in working in and outdoor program?



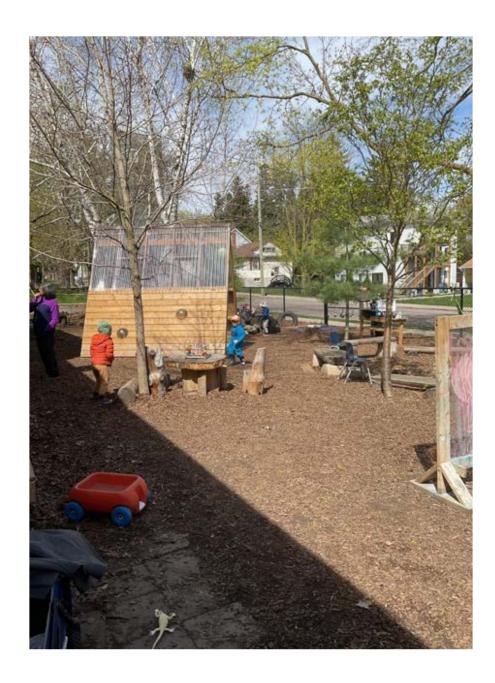
What our educators shared with us

- Access to water to keep cool in summer, to drink, hand washing stations/ snack bins
- Tables to set up provocations, snack, lunch
- Large spaces to move
- Shade in the summer









- Storage to keep loose parts etc so you do not need to take things in and out
- Wagons to take items outdoors
- · Access to a bathroom is ideal
- Places for adults to sit with the children on adult size chairs.
- · Warming shed
- Proper clothes for educators and children/ giving staff a bonus to buy clothing items they need to be outdoors
- PD and opportunity to take the Nature and Forest School Certification/Time for adults to connect with each other in nature
- Having an extra educator at times to have a fire/use tools etc





Questions?