

Wonder

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATURE ACTION COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN

Universal Principles for Connecting Children with Nature

How They Came to Be

In 2008-2010, the World Forum Foundation Nature Action Collaborative for Children, an international voluntary group of educators, environmentalists, designers and advocates, came together to develop a set of universal principles around connecting children with the natural world. After a series of dynamic brainstorming sessions and breakout discussions, they solicited input on the resulting work from other colleagues around the world before consolidating their diverse perspectives into the *Universal Principles for Connecting Children with Nature*. For ten years, these principles have inspired programs and professionals around the world.

On the tenth anniversary of these principles, we are thrilled to offer to you a new visual representation to make the principles even easier to apply and share. We encourage you to pull the page from the magazine or download and print additional copies from worldforumfoundation.org/nacc-up.

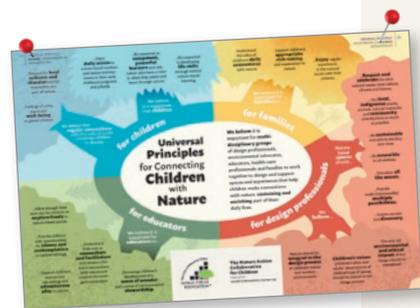


The mission of the Nature Action Collaborative for Children (NACC) is to re-connect children with the natural world by making developmentally appropriate nature education a sustaining and enriching part of the daily lives of the world's children.

worldforumfoundation.org/nature

How to Apply Them

- Read through the principles and reflect on how well they align with your own program.
- Ask what specific aspects of your program or what experiences you provide that support or illustrate the principles.
- Lead a discussion with the staff or families you serve to talk about one or more of the principles that is important to you.
- Choose one or more principles as inspiration for making a concrete change to deepen the connection with nature for the children and families you serve.
- Post the principles in a prominent place or share them with your community. With the new visual representation of the principles on the next page, it's easier than ever to share the principles with families, educators, designers, environmentalists and policy makers.
- Join the NACC Facebook Group (facebook.com/wfnature) and share your experiences living out these principles there.
- Send your experiences, stories and photos illustrating one or more of the principles in action to kirstenh@dimensionsfoundation.org. We'll compile your submissions in future editions of *Wonder*!



...Respect for **local cultures and climates** and for themselves as a part of nature.

...Feelings of unity, peace and **well-being** as global citizens.

...Have **daily access** to nature-based outdoor and indoor environments in their early childhood programs and schools.

...Be respected as **competent, powerful learners** and risk-takers who have a voice in what they create and learn through nature.

...Be supported in developing **life skills** through holistic nature-based learning.

We believe that **regular connections** with the natural world encourage children to develop...

for children

We believe it is important... that **children...**

Universal Principles for Connecting **CHILDREN** with **NATURE**

for educators

We believe it is important for **educators to...**

...Allow enough time each day for children to **explore freely** in nature-based spaces.

...Provide children with opportunities for **silence and contemplation** in natural settings.

...Understand their role as **researchers and facilitators** who observe children's interactions with nature and support the emergent curriculum.

...Support children's appropriate risk-taking and **adventurous play** in nature.

...Encourage children's development of a **sense of wonder** and a sense of environmental **stewardship**.

Understand the value of children's **daily connections** with nature.

...Support children's **appropriate risk-taking** and exploration in nature.

...**Enjoy** regular experiences in the natural world with their children.

...**Respect and celebrate** the site's natural assets, local culture, climate and history.

...Use **local, indigenous** plants, animals, natural materials and **community** contributions as much as possible.

...Be **sustainable** and able to develop over time.

...Be **accessible** to all abilities.

...Stimulate **all the senses**.

...Provide multi-functionality/**multiple possibilities**.

...Inspire wonder and **discovery**.

We believe it is important for families to...

for families

We believe it is important for multi-disciplinary groups of design professionals, environmental advocates, educators, health-care professionals and families to **work together** to design and support spaces and experiences that help children make connections **with nature** sustaining and enriching part of their daily lives.

Nature-based spaces should...

for design professionals

We believe...

Nature should be **integral in the design process** of children's indoor and outdoor environments.

Children's voices (children's ideas and adults' observations of children's use of space) should be central to the design process.

The overall **environmental and ethical impact** of the design should be considered.

The Nature Action Collaborative for Children

Learn more:
worldforumfoundation.org/nacc-up