

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

...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.

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

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](http://worldforumfoundation.org/nacc-up)