

WONDER

The Nature Action Collaborative for Children Global Newsletter

Coordinated by Kirsten Haugen

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The Joy of Mud!

“Mud play and the wonder and joy associated with it are the stuff that fabulous childhood memories are made of!”

—Michelle Rupiper

“We believe it’s important for educators to allow enough time each day for children to explore freely in nature-based spaces.”

—NACC Universal Principles for Connecting Children with Nature

e.e. cummings famously quipped, “The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful!” The joyful faces in these photos from just a few of the International Mud Day celebrations around the world prove his point. NACC’s Universal Principles for Connecting Children with Nature include providing time for children to explore freely in nature-based settings, and what could be more freeing than exploring the very stuff of which our earth is made? That sense of joy even gets a neurological boost from a mud-

residing bacteria called Mycobacterium Vaccae which releases serotonin in our brains, a neurotransmitter that soothes, calms, and helps us to relax. Whether it oozes right out of the mud, or comes from letting go and getting dirty, mud is magic.



JUNE 29

Looking for a joyful boost in your day right now? Search #wfmudday or #internationalmudday to soak up more fabulous Mud Day joy! And perhaps it’s not too early to start making plans for a mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful Mud Day 2022!

With gratitude,

Kirsten Haugen



Nature Action Collaborative for Children

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

Write for WONDER!

Send your “Wonder-filled” story about connecting children with the natural world to kirstenh@dimensionsfoundation.org



Adventures in Risky Play awarded the top medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards!

The book cover features a photograph of three children on a wooden play structure. A young girl with curly hair is sitting in a wooden crate on a yellow slide, looking towards the camera. Two other children, a boy and a girl, are standing behind her, looking down at her. The background shows green foliage.

ADVENTURES IN RISKY PLAY

WHAT IS YOUR YES?

by Rusty Keeler

"This is a book that encourages you to completely change the way you think about how children could and should play. As Rusty points out, the greatest barrier to children playing is often we adults and our hang-ups and concerns yet overcoming those is not only possible but essential if our children are to get the most from their play experiences. Prepare to be challenged."

Marc Armitage, *Playworker, Independent Children's Play Advocate & Consultant*

Learn more by calling (800) 221-2864
or visiting ExchangePress.com/risky

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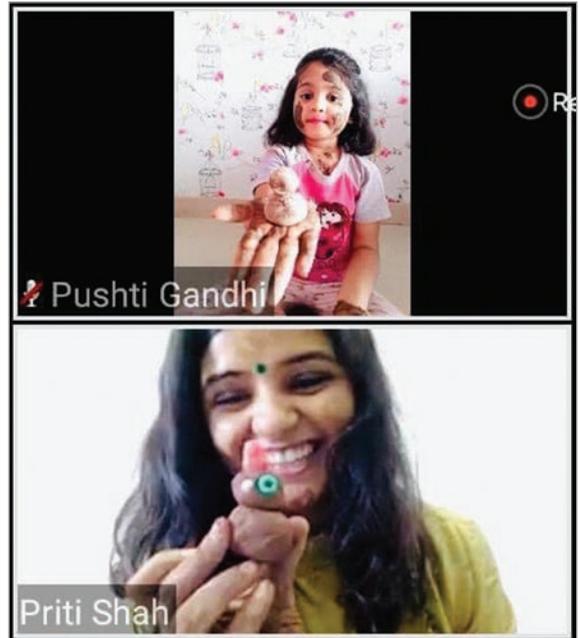
Hope Learning Tree Educational Foundation

Ahmedabad, India

International Mud Day celebration at Serenity Library and Godrej Garden City. theserenitylibrary.com



© Hope Learning Tree



Pushti Gandhi

Priti Shah

"The 'Glorious Mud' concept was shared with families and young children to enjoy the earth. A virtual celebration was also facilitated for the children who could not participate."

—Priti Shah, founder and director

Nina's Nursery High Lane

Stockport, United Kingdom

"Mud not only helps to bolster the immune systems of our children, but it also provides a freedom to unleash creativity within nature whilst providing awe and wonder through investigation linked in with our Curiosity Approach pedagogy that underpins our children's daily experiences."

—Amanda Redwood
and Charlotte Blackburn



© Nina's Nursery High Lane

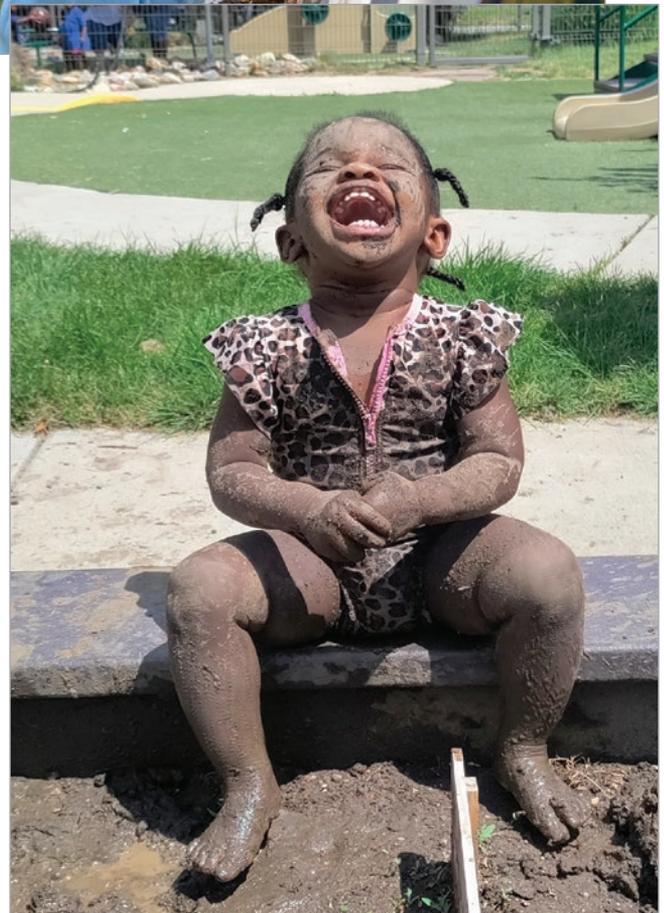
Clayton Early Learning

Denver, Colorado, United States

© Scott Dressel-Martin / Clayton Early Learning

"It's a very sensory experience and what we know is that the more senses we can engage children in utilizing, more of their brain lights up."

—Jenny Smith,
director of
comprehensive
services



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© Nina's Nursery High Lane

Hope Day School

Dallas, Texas, United States

“Not every child will respond with joy and exuberance to their first chance to play with mud... Even then, with a thoughtful approach the experience offers insights and inspiration.”

— Cori Berg, director

Read more about Cori Berg’s reflections on Hope Day School’s first-ever Mud Day at natureexplore.org/first-mud-day-moments



© Hope Day School



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Kids Are Us Family Child Care Center

Oshkosh, Wisconsin, United States

“We got wet and dirty playing and exploring with water and mud in our outdoor classroom. Remember: it washes off!”

—Tammy Dannhoff, owner



© Kids Are Us Family Child Care Center



© Kids Are Us Family Child Care Center

Universal Principles for Connecting Children with Nature

Would you like to explore and share NACC’s “Universal Principles for Connecting Children with Nature?” This colorful guide is easily pulled from the center of the January/February 2021 issue of *Exchange*, or you can download it for free at worldforumfoundation.org/nacc-up.

