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Innovative ways to Connect Children to Nature

Creating Nature Play and Learning Places: Theory into Practice
Theory: Linking behavior to design

✧ Affordance

✧ Activity Setting

✧ Territorial range
Theory: Linking behavior to design

- Territorality
Theory: Linking behavior to design

✨ Motivation: The 6 C’s

**Curiosity** prompted by stones to turn over;
**Choice** afforded by sizes/shapes of stones, gravel;
**Content** discovered organisms harbored underneath;
**Collaboration** self-evident in the playful exploration group;
**Challenge** turning over large rocks;
**Context** new friendships made or reinforced, new skills learned, observations made, new projects planned at home or school.
Evidence
Bay Area Discovery Museum
Evidence
Bay Area Discovery Museum
Evidence: Dramatic Play & Loose Parts
Bay Area Discovery Museum
Evidence: Dramatic Play & Loose Parts
Bay Area Discovery Museum
Evidence
kidZone, North Carolina Zoo
Evidence
kidZone, North Carolina Zoo

Science Learning Behavior and Setting Type

- Construction
  - Cause/Effect: 3%
  - Exploring: 7%
  - Observing: 62%
  - No Value: 32%

- Full Body
  - Cause/Effect: 14%
  - Exploring: 17%
  - Observing: 55%

- Art Expression
  - Cause/Effect: 6%
  - Exploring: 20%
  - Observing: 50%

- Dramatic
  - Cause/Effect: 4%
  - Exploring: 20%
  - Observing: 49%

- Seating
  - Cause/Effect: 7%
  - Exploring: 27%
  - Observing: 47%

- Gather-Transition
  - Cause/Effect: 7%
  - Exploring: 15%
  - Observing: 26%

- Circulation
  - Cause/Effect: 3%
  - Exploring: 7%
  - Observing: 41%

- Animal Tie-in
  - Cause/Effect: 11%
  - Exploring: 4%
  - Observing: 85%

Legend
- N = 968
- All Observation Points

Map of NC Zoo Kidzone - All Observation Points
Practice
NC Botanical Garden: Magic in the Garden
Practice
NC Botanical Garden: Magic in the Garden
Practice
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NC Botanical Garden: Magic in the Garden
Practice
NC Botanical Garden: Magic in the Garden
U.S. National Guidelines

Nature Play and Learning Places

Creating and managing places where children engage with nature

ROBIN C. MOORE
7 CHAPTERS

1. Why nature play and learning
2. Nature play, learning, and education
3. Locating nature play and learning places
4. Designing nature play and learning places
5. Managing nature play and learning places
6. Managing risks and benefits
7. Engaging the community
Applying the UK playwork model to nature play

Nature Play Corps

1. I Spy with Animal Eyes
2. The Great Fire Escape
3. Bear Necessities
Applying the UK playwork model to nature play

Nature Play Corps

1. I Spy with Animal Eyes
2. The Great Fire Escape
Applying the UK playwork model to nature play

Nature Play Corps

Be Great, Migrate!

Turtle Island
With landscape architects: Rachel Robinson and Sharon Floro and architect Luke Schelly
Thanks!

NLI
NATURAL LEARNING INITIATIVE
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www.naturalearning.org