Students
- Onsite programs
- Outreach programs
- Grant-funded initiatives

Teachers and Schools
- Outreach professional development
- Summer workshops
- Pick-Your-Own-PD program

School Communities
- Family Science Nights
- “Dig In” Planting Events
- Garden Club connections
Early Childhood in St. Louis City

- Head Starts (Federally funded)
  - Grace Hill (4 centers, ~550 students)
  - Urban League (4 centers, ~500 students)
  - Youth in Need (9 centers, ~450 students)
  - YWCA (28 centers, ~2600 students across city and county)

- Public preschools (State funded)
  - Saint Louis Public Schools (44 sites, ~5,000 students)

- Private EC/Child Development Centers
  - Parochial preschools
  - Private Schools
Field Trips for Early Childhood?

A Trip to the Zoo: Children's Words and Photographs
Darlene DeMarie
University of South Florida, Early Childhood Research and Practice 2001 v3.n1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>MIP Description</th>
<th>Photographic Content</th>
<th>Reported Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-12 yrs</td>
<td>MIP - Peers</td>
<td>86% of photos depicted animals.</td>
<td>Reported information that included conservation messages about the animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 yrs</td>
<td>MIP - Leader</td>
<td>85% of photos depicted animals. Most animals had unusual features.</td>
<td>Reported information about the animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 yrs</td>
<td>MIP - Teacher</td>
<td>56% of photos depicted animals, but fewer were exotic. Motion and activity was prevalent. Many showed feet, the ground, and familiar animals.</td>
<td>Reported the rules and identified subject.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MBG By-request ECE Programs

Outreach Programs

• Honeybees Abuzz
  • Introduction to honeybees
  • Early ecology

• Garden Sensory Adventure
  • Five senses
  • Early ethnobotany

Curiosity Collectors

• Gardenland Express Holiday Show
PNC Grow Up Great Program

- 5-year support program for Grace Hill Settlement House Head Start Centers
- Partnership effort joining three other local cultural institutions and Maryville University.
- 2009-2014, later extended through 2016
2-year partnership with Saint Louis Public Schools to provide outdoor education support to the preschool classes at four SLPS sites:

- Hodgen Elementary
- Dunbar Elementary
- Adams Elementary
- Wilkinson Early Childhood Center*

Core Elements:

- **Outreach programs for students** led by MBG instructors.
- **Field Trip scholarships** for those classes who wished/could come.
- **Professional development day** at the Garden for 300 ECE teachers.
- **Dig-In Tree Planting events** at each center (250 trees across 5 sites).
- **Planting activities** provided for school-based family events.
- **Garden-based family night** in May (2,200 RSVPs)
• Institution-prompted partnership around outdoor and botanical education.

• Core Elements:
  
  • **Nine classrooms** identified (by ULHS) across four sites for instructional support.
  
  • **Four outreaches** per classroom during the spring semester.
  
  • **Four professional development** sessions for all ULHS teachers throughout the spring semester.
Outdoor Education Priorities for ECE

Exposure  Familiarity  Inquiry  Enjoyment

Challenges
- Buy-in from parents, teachers and administrators
- Safety concerns in the city
- Bureaucratic roadblocks
- Fear of nature
Student Outdoor Ed. Strategies

- Create opportunities for free exploration
- Respect students’ self-centered mindset
  - Sit-Upons
  - Rope circles or hula hoops
  - Display space for collected finds.
- Introduce and encourage ‘exploring’ behaviors.
- Bring nature indoors
Programming Considerations for EC Informal Education

- Time is limited.
- Standards for early childhood are behavior-based rather than content-based.
- Reinforce familiarity.
  - Emphasis on educating and supporting teachers, institutions and families.
  - Prioritize familiar settings, plants and animals.
  - Put nature in their hands whenever possible.
Working with ECE Teachers

2014 Early Childhood Nature Summit
Community Summit for the Greater St. Louis Region
June 30 - July 2

Milwaukee Botanical Garden
2600 North Dr., Mequon, WI

WHO: Early childhood educators, preschool teacher directors and staff, parents, families, providers, K-8 educators, and community members. Teams of five to eight individuals.

WHAT: To increase early childhood educators' knowledge, tools, and strategies, and to provide opportunities for personal and professional growth.

WHERE: Field trips to the Milwaukee Botanical Gardens and other park locations.

WHEN: June 30, July 1, and July 2, 2014.

Learn more and register at www.mobot.org/schoolprograms

DON'T MISS IT!
Registration Deadline June 26, 2014
Partnering with School Communities