

Resources

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – workshops, materials, posters, books

<http://dnr.state.il.us/education/>

Division of Education

217-524-4126 dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov

Valerie Keener, Administrator

<http://www.natureexplore.org>

Outdoor Classroom Design Services

Workshops

Natural Products

Books for educators and families

Information on research, list of certified nature explore classrooms by state

Find ideas on how to construct a worm bin at [natureexplore.org/wormbin](http://www.natureexplore.org/wormbin)

<http://www.communityplaythings.com>

<http://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/topics/outdoor-classroom>

Articles and videos on outdoor classrooms

<http://www.earlychildhoodnews.com>

Click on articles

Click on Environment

An entire page of articles related to outdoor learning.

Illinois Learning Project – Tip sheets – for teachers and parents

<http://illinoisearlylearning.org/tipsheets>

Get Growing – From Seeds to Sprouts

Get Growing – Learning About Seeds

Get Growing – Planning a Garden with Young Children

Natural Illinois – Birds

Natural Illinois – Butterflies and Moths

Natural Illinois – Frogs and Toads

Natural Illinois – Insects

Natural Illinois – Leaves All Around

Natural Illinois – Mammals

Natural Illinois – Rock On

Natural Illinois – The Trees You See

Neighborhood Geography with Young Children

Out and About With Preschoolers – Sunshine Science. etc.

From Playground to Outdoor Classroom

Carolyn Webb and Sandra Johnson

Share A Vision – Oct 2013

www.nwf.org

Be Out There – Much information on benefits of children being outside and outdoor activities for children and families

Check the following site for special reports:

Your Weather Report

Get the Dirt on Dirt

Green Time for Sleep Time

Outdoor Play for Everyday

Back to School: Back Outside

Whole Child: Developing Mind, Body and Spirit through Outdoor Play

Time Out: Using the Outdoors to Enhance Classroom Performance

Connecting Today's Kids with Nature: A Policy Action Plan

<https://www.nwf.org/Be-Out-There/Why-Be-Out-There/Special-Reports.aspx>

www.naturalearning.org

The purpose of the Natural Learning Initiative is to promote the importance of the natural environment in the daily experience of all children, through environmental design, action research, education, and dissemination of information.

www.dimensionsfoundation.org

Our mission is to inspire children, families and educators to connect more deeply with the world around them.

Good source for research articles

Claire Warden – educator from Scotland has written many books and articles on outdoor learning

Nature Kindergartens and Forest Schools: an Exploration of Naturalistic Learning within Nature Kindergartens and Forest Schools

Potential of a Puddle: Creating Vision and Values for Outdoor Learning

Fascination of Water: Puddles

Nurture Through Nature: Working with Children Under 3 in Outdoor Environments

<http://www.childcareexchange.com> - Articles by Claire Warden

<http://www.childrenandnature.org>

Together we can create a world where every child can play, learn and grow in nature.

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/naturestory/> Ideas for family nature activities

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<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com> - links for information on various animals

<http://www.spacesforplay.com> -
Design Consulting Firm - President Sara Kreiss

www.redleafpress.org
2 pages of outdoor learning resources in their book catalog

www.braininsightsonline.com
Schlitz Audubon Nature Center – Brain insights cards/books

Sources of equipment and materials used in our outdoor classroom

KodoKids
<http://www.kodokids.com>
Ramps and pathways, hand pump

Lakeshore Learning
www.lakeshorelearning.com
bamboo blocks, jingle bells with ribbons, small rain sticks

Beckers's School Supplies
<http://www.shopbecker.com>
weaving frame

Constructive Playthings
<http://www.constructiveplaythings.com>
Discovery Windows – blocks you can put items in to display
Tree Blocks
Magnetic wooden blocks

Retail stores – Ikea, Walmart, Farm and Fleet, Walgreens, Target,
etc.
Small card tables, trays, loose parts

<http://www.soundplay.com> - We have not purchased any of these but this
site has really cool outdoor musical instruments

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