

Resources for Teaching and Learning about the **Natural World**

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Articles, books, journals, and other resources

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Web sites, organizations, and Listservs

- The Alliance for Childhood** advocates policies that support children's development and love of living and learning. The site offers information about projects and partnerships; access to reports, links, and resources; and the opportunity to register for updates and action alerts. www.allianceforchildhood.net
- Arbor Day Foundation** works to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. Teachers can browse the online tree guide, learn about tree planting and care, join the foundation and receive 10 free trees, or find resources for teaching on Nature Explore, a program for children ages 2–8. www.arborday.org
- Boundless Playgrounds** helps communities to create playgrounds that are accessible for children with and without disabilities. Early childhood educators can look for a playground in their area, take a virtual playground tour, read about the benefits of play, and learn how to build a Boundless playground. www.boundlessplaygrounds.org
- Celebrate Urban Birds!** is a year-round science program in which participants of all ages collect data on 16 target species of city birds and send the information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For information on planning and promoting a Celebrate Urban Birds! event, visit the Web site. www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/urbanbirds/celebration

- Children & Nature Network (C&NN)** supports those working to reconnect children with nature (see BTJ article by Martha Farrell Erickson, this issue). The site shares news, research, tools and resources, and membership information. www.cnaturenet.org
- Dimensions Educational Research Foundation** offers resource materials and research-based programs, including Nature Explore, a project with the Arbor Day Foundation. www.dimensionsfoundation.org
- Green Hour**, a program of the National Wildlife Federation, is a movement to give all children a "green hour" each day, that is, a period of time for play and interaction in the natural world. The site offers information, activity ideas, a blog, and message boards. www.greenhour.org
- Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation**. *The Journal of Environmental Education* details how best to present environmental issues and how to evaluate programs already in place for primary through university level and adult students. www.heldref.org/jenv.php
- International Play Association** is a worldwide network of those who believe that a child's right to play is a fundamental human right. The site contains resources, a Listserv, and information about membership, projects, and conferences. www.ipaworld.org
- Journey North** is a citizen science program that studies seasonal change and wildlife migration. Educators can find teaching tools, classroom lessons, student materials, and learn how to help their children and class get involved. www.learner.org/jnorth
- KaBOOM!** creates places for children to play through the participation and leadership of communities. On the Web site early childhood teachers can read about the importance of play, learn about building play spaces in their communities, find training sessions, join an online community, and more. www.kaboom.org
- KinderNature** contains nature resources for early childhood teachers, including activities, songs, games, an idea bank, booklists, and more. <http://kindernature.storycounty.com>
- National Audubon Society** is dedicated to conservation, particularly of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Teachers can find information about birds and bird conservation, learn how to set up a healthy schoolyard to attract birds and wildlife, and search for an Audubon center or sanctuary nearby. www.audubon.org
- The National Center on Accessibility** works to provide access to recreation for people with disabilities through research, technical assistance, and education. www.ncaonline.org
- National Forest Foundation** is the official nonprofit partner of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Programs children can participate in include NatureWatch, the Junior Forest Ranger Program, and Urban Treehouse, a program that builds outdoor structures in urban areas to provide a place to teach conservation to local youth. www.natlforests.org
- National Park Service** provides a link—click on For Kids and Teachers—to access information about local parks, borrow traveling trunks and audiovisual materials for classroom use, plan a field trip in children's local area, and share ideas. www.nps.gov
- Nature Action Collaborative for Children** is a new worldwide effort to make nature education a sustaining and enriching part of the daily lives of children. Membership is free and open to anyone who is interested in reconnecting young children with nature. www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/nacc/index.php
- NatureFind** helps locate nature nearby. Educators can enter their zip code or city and state in the database and view a list of parks, nature centers, trails, zoos, national forests, aquariums, rivers, wildlife refuges, and so forth that are in their areas. www.naturefind.com
- North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)** has resources about environmental education programs and initiatives. Teachers can also check out EE-link, the leading resource for exploring environmental education on the Internet. www.naaee.org and <http://eelink.net>

Planet Earth Playscapes offers playscape resources and information about projects and multisensory learning environments for children and community-built process. www.earthplay.net

Project Learning Tree, a program of the American Forest Foundation, is a national environmental education program for teachers and children, pre-K through 12. The project offers professional development workshops for teachers across the country. <http://plt.org>

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a nonprofit water education foundation and publisher. Its trained facilitators conduct professional development workshops across the country to give teachers the materials and skills they need to teach children about the globe's most important resource, water. Educators can learn about WET's programs, purchase materials/lesson plans, contact their state's coordinator, or find a workshop nearby. www.projectwet.org

Project WILD, created by the Council for Environmental Education, is a wildlife-focused conservation and environmental education program

for students, grades K through 12. Teachers can contact their state coordinator (listed on the Web site) for information about materials and workshops. www.projectwild.org

Roots and Shoots, a program of the Jane Goodall Institute, is a network for young people and adults to share ideas, implement community service projects, and participate in special events and global campaigns to improve communities, animals and their habitats, and the environment. www.rootsandshoots.org

Sierra Club works to protect communities and the planet. Educators can find resource lists, peruse children's book offerings, learn about programs, local outings, and membership. www.sierraclub.org

WET in the City, created by the Council for Environmental Education, is an urban environmental education program that teaches about water resources. WET (Water Education for Teachers) provides workshops, resources, and educational materials for urban educators.

www.wetcity.org

