

Teacher and Parent Workshop: Take your learning outdoors in ALL seasons – for real people!

Who: Anyone working with young children (ages 3-7) who wants to incorporate more outdoor learning in their homeschool, preschool, daycare, or classrooms. This is workshop-style with plenty of time for brainstorming for your unique teaching setting.

Objectives:

- provide inspiration
- address risk management in outdoor settings
- solidify your “why” of why take kids outdoors every day?
- practical tips and tricks to make your outdoor time easier and more enjoyable
- participate in a mini-lesson much like we use at Forest Friends
- leave open ended Q and R and group brainstorming time for specific questions

Topics:

- Explore your “why” – why are you here? What do you wish to learn today?
 - o Benefits of outdoor play and learning
 - o How outdoor learning looks different from classroom or teacher-directed learning
 - o How real life outdoor learning differs from popular images and ideas
- touring our learning spaces and our daily routine
- risk management discussion
- practical tips and tricks:
 - o group management
 - o gear and layering
 - o setting realistic expectations
- Nature as a teacher
 - o Learning together vs. having all the answers
 - o A framework for meeting curricula goals while being interest-led
 - o An arsenal of books
 - o What interests you, may interest them!
 - o Craft a mini-lesson on evergreen trees
- Problem-solving and brainstorming sessions

- Finding places to explore
- Homeschool: open-ended vs. directed learning activities - balancing
- Dealing with licensing limitations (daycares/schools)
- Future Workshops requests? Specific nature topics?

Schedule:

9 – 9:30: Prompting connection questions, cover site safety and accessibility, introduce and tell us your “why”

9:30 – 10:45 tour each learning space: outdoor/beyond/indoor and discuss materials, activities and risk management practices that occur in each

Break: 10-15 minutes

11:00 address any remaining risk management questions, practical tips/tricks/expectations talk

11:30 Nature as a teacher

12-12:30 lunch break

12:30 Teaching workshop, creating a mini-lesson on the fly using the framework we learned in “nature as a teacher”

1: 15 Problem solving and brainstorming

2 pm: wrap up & feedback forms