



# THE BASICS OF NATURE-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

*an educational approach where experiences learning WITH nature are core to the teaching & learning*

## Nature-Based Early Childhood Education (NbeCE)

Learning WITH Nature

Administrative Practices

Teaching Practices

Early Childhood Education

Environmental Education

Samara Early Learning

## Nature-based Pedagogy

Learning WITH Nature

Administrative Practices

Inside

Outside

Beyond

Emergent Curriculum

Teaching Practices

Extensive, daily outdoor time

Samara Early Learning

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# THE BASICS OF NATURE-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



## Nurturing Nature-based Early Childhood Education

### Administrative Practices

- ☀ Policies & procedures to support pedagogy (e.g., site assessments, risky play)
- ☀ Staff support (e.g., professional learning for teachers, team planning time)
- ☀ Family involvement & support (e.g., newsletters, education, social events)
- ☀ Logistical support (e.g., extra clothing)
- ☀ Financial support (e.g., budget management, fundraising)
- ☀ Ongoing maintenance (e.g., hazard removal)
- ☀ Clearly communicated philosophy (to current & potential stakeholders)

### Teaching Practices

#### Program Structure

- 👉 Prioritize child-led activities (i.e., more free play than teacher-led activities)
- 👉 Prioritize outdoor time (e.g., all weather, beginning of the day)

#### Physical Environment

- 👉 Authentic, place-based integration of nature in all spaces
- 👉 Prevalence of loose parts
- 👉 Three learning spaces (i.e., Inside, Outside, Beyond)

#### Teacher-child Interactions

- 👉 Primarily child-led activities
- 👉 Teacher-led activities connect learning I/O/B
- 👉 Co-learners with children
- 👉 Support of beneficial risky play

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|               | Learning IN Nature                                  | Learning ABOUT Nature                | Learning WITH Nature  |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Location      | Outside, Beyond                                     | Inside, Outside, Beyond              | Outside, Beyond<br><i>(initially at least)</i>                          |
| Needs nature? | No  | No                                   | Yes   |
| Development   | ⚙️ ❤️ 🏃   | ⚙️                                   | ⚙️ ❤️ 🏃   |
| Led by        | Teacher or child                                    | Teacher or child                     | Child   |
| Timeframe     | May build over time                                 | May build over time                  | Builds over "nature" time   |
| Examples      | Sensory table outside; reading a story about trucks | Life cycle of a frog; names of birds | Discovering & asking questions about scat; Finding/studying a dead bird |

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