



Playing Well Together

Spreading Play Across North Carolina

Richard Rairigh
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Be Active Kids®

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Sandhills Community College

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North Carolina Zoo



Foundations for Play in NC

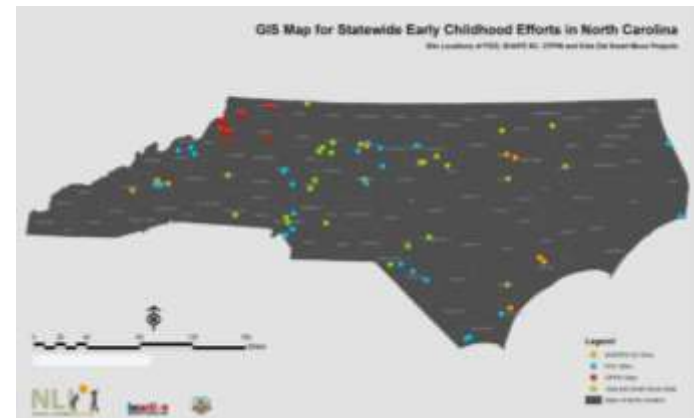


Who's Playing Well in NC?



Statewide Connections

- North Carolina Children and Nature Coalition
- Active Play Alliance
- Shape NC
- Kids Eat Smart Move More
- Eat Smart Move More NC
- Nature Play Corp



NC Children and Nature Coalition

NCCAN!'s vision is that children will have the opportunity to value, discover and experience the natural world around them

NCCAN!'s mission is to establish a relationship between children and the natural world by bringing together people and organizations to strengthen, broaden and support efforts that build these connections.

20 member leadership team
150+ groups and organizations
6 Conferences

Undetermined # of connection made



You are invited to the following event:

6TH ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA CHILDREN AND NATURE CONFERENCE

Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:

Thursday, March 7, 2013 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM (EST)

Schiele Museum of Natural History
1500 East Garrison Blvd,
Gastonia, NC 28054

[View Map](#)


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Join us for the 6th Annual North Carolina Children and Nature (NCCAN!) Conference. We are expecting this years conference to be something wonderful. We are connecting with the NC Environmental Education Centers Conference at the amazing Schiele...
[Read More](#)

Share this event on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

We hope you can make it!

Cheers,
North Carolina Children and Nature Coalition



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Home

NC Children and Nature Coalition (NCCAN!) was formed as a response to the alarming disconnect between today's children and the natural environment. NCCAN!'s goals are simple: get children and their families to explore, embrace and spend more time outdoors. This encourages the education, mental and physical well-being of all people, especially children, strengthens families, and provides long-term benefits for our society and the natural world.

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In today's disconnected world, children have more opportunities than ever to learn from, and communicate with, people all over the world. But...
[Click here to watch!](#)

No other children's event like this! Call now! 704-864-4277

[Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights](#)
[Conferences](#)
[Tool Kits](#)
[Play Alliance](#)
[NCCAN! Downloads](#)

NC Active Play Alliance

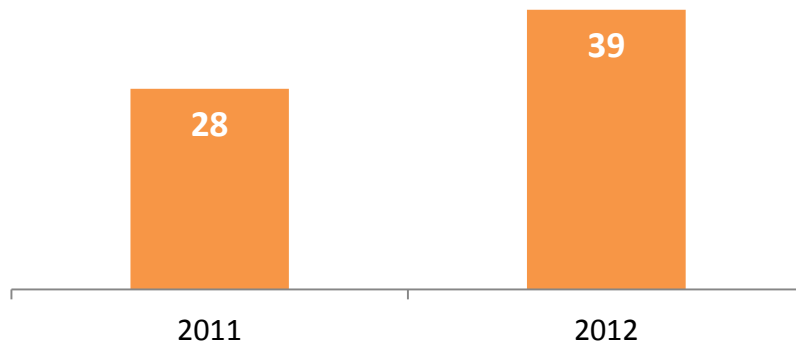


Increase awareness in educators, parents and community members for and about the importance of children's play while increasing the opportunities and time children spend engaged in play.

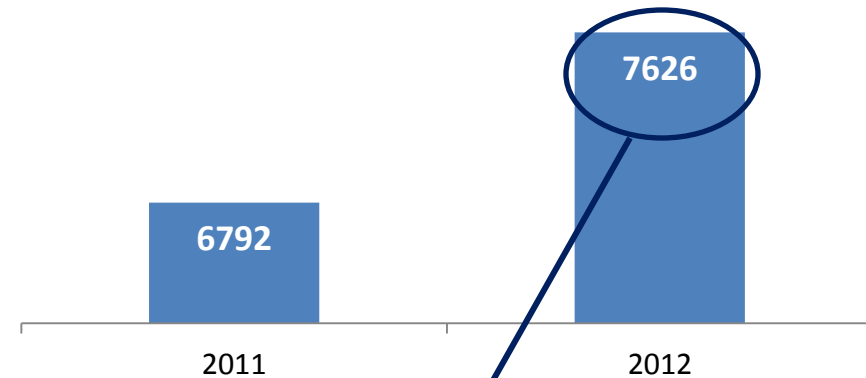


NC Play Daze: 2011-2012 Impact

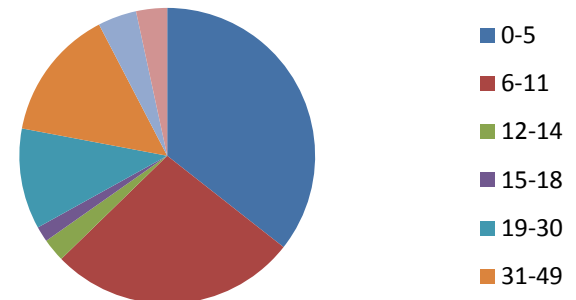
Registered Play Daze Events



Play Daze Participants



2012 Play Daze Age Distribution



Health Aspect



BE ACTIVE KIDS®



RECOVER A PLAN

Health Aspect



BE ACTIVE KIDS[®]

Health Aspect



37+ Child care centers influenced
600+ Child care providers and teachers educated
(knowledge & behaviors)
68 New trainers trained
7000+ Children reached

BE ACTIVE KIDS®

Education Aspect

Higher Education and Professional Development Goals for Outdoor Learning Environments & Early Childhood Curriculum

Skills

Knowledge

Dispositions

Motivation

Education Aspect

Early Childhood Courses Focused on Outdoor Learning Goals

- EDU 119 Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- EDU 153 Health, Safety and Nutrition
- EDU 151 Creative Activities
- EDU 157 Active Play
- EDU 252 Exploration Activities
- EDU 259 Curriculum Planning
- EDU 288 Advanced Issues

Embedded into our Early Childhood Associate Degree Program

- Playful Pedagogy
- Play Leader Training
- Growing Up Wild
- Project Learning Tree
- Play Daze Events
- Discovery Day in the Gardens
- Film Festival

6 Community colleges involved

7+ Courses altered

350+ Educators influenced

Education Aspect

Knowledge

- Identify and describe outdoor experiences that will facilitate development in all domains, including : Science and nature, Nutrition, Gross and Fine Motor, Dramatic Play, Creative Arts , Language and Literacy
- Identify community resources to enhance outdoor learning.
- Define strategies for involving families and local communities in outdoor learning.
- Justify policies that support a broad and nature-integrated curriculum that is multi-disciplinary, multi-sensory, and emergent.
- Articulate the benefits of daily outdoor spontaneous and unstructured play as well as intentional outdoor learning experiences.
- Identify elements of appropriate and inappropriate outdoor environments for ALL children and give rationale for decisions.
- Discuss research-based connections between children' holistic development and their experiences in natural surroundings.

Education Aspect

Skills

- Demonstrate an understanding of the current knowledge of outdoor environments and children's development.
- Design developmentally appropriate outdoor learning environments for all age levels.
- Utilize an assessment tool, such as POEMS, to evaluate an outdoor learning environment and make appropriate recommendations.
- Advocate for access to high-quality outdoor experiences for ALL children.
- Create developmentally appropriate activities to facilitate learning and development in all domains in an outdoor learning environment that promotes all areas of development.
- Model active engagement and exploration of outdoor learning to children.
- Plan a family and community event focusing on the importance of daily outdoor learning for children.
- Motivate children to respect the natural learning environment.

Education Aspect

Dispositions & Motivation

- Reflect on personal experiences with the outdoors, nature, nutrition, and physical activity; identify positive or negative feelings associated with particular aspects of each and examine possible reasons for each.
- Examine relationship between personal experience and current attitudes or interactions with children.
- Identify personal attitudes or feelings toward concepts such as unstructured play, risk vs. challenge, child safety, messy play, etc. and think about how those attitudes and feelings influence interactions with children and activity planning.
- Realize and accept that outdoor play can be messy, that children thrive with opportunities for appropriate risk-taking , and that safe environments can include challenges.
- Evaluate attitudes regarding reduce, reuse, and recycle and the impact those attitude have on behavior.

Southern Pines, NC

2012 Annual Play Daze Event

Goals:

Children and youth outside being physically active, making choices, having fun, and forming friendships!

Sandhills Community College's Early Childhood Education students engaged in actively observing and facilitating outdoor play for a wide age range of children.

[View of Campbell House Property](#)



Play Daze September 2012



Who Came?

- Southern Pines Primary Preschool Classes
- Southern Pines Primary and Elementary students
 - Year round students on fall break
 - 3rd grade
 - 4th grade
 - 5th grade

40 (4-yr olds)

40 (5-12 yr olds)

50 (8 yr olds)

50 (9 yr olds)

50 (10 yr olds)



**Dr. Aaron Spence, Superintendent
Moore County Public Schools**

Keep on Keeping On!

Randolph County Partnership
for Children presents



Friday, April 19, 2013

North Asheboro Park, 1939 Canoy Drive, Asheboro NC • 9:00 to 5:00 pm

What is PLAY DAZE?

Play Daze celebrates the value of play and is designed to provide diverse play activities for children. The point is play for the sake of playing, to be physically active, to challenge each individual to be creative in mind and body, and to share in the joy of discovery and interaction without the need for competition.

Play Daze:

- Offers opportunities to work independently or together to plan and live out adventures, make up games and rules, or explore the world and all it has to offer;
- Provides supervised, unstructured time where children are free to explore and use materials provided or found.

There will be approximately 15 unique play areas for children to explore. Some of the activities planned are fort-building, rope climbing, hula hooping, clay and mud play, sand, dirt and water play, nature art, building fairy gardens, face painting, dramatic play, loose parts free play and an outdoor reading nook!

Why PLAY DAZE?

North Carolina has the 11th highest rate of childhood obesity in the country. Today's children, like many generations before them, can reap the many benefits of free play. Now is the time to introduce active play to help children stay healthy. Benefits of play:

- Health benefits from physical activity
- Pleasure and enjoyment
- Emotional regulation
- Stress relief
- Learning and creativity
- Development of confidence

Who will be involved in PLAY DAZE?

Play Daze will be attended by more than 300 children from 25 programs located across Randolph County, including four-year olds in child care centers and preschool programs and children ages 5-12 years old attending afterschool programs. Parents will join their children as play partners and learn how free, creative physical play is an educational opportunity that enhances their child's development. More than 30 community volunteers will help supervise the play areas.

About the Partnership for Children

The Partnership serves as our community's lead organization for young children and their families. Our vision is that all children in Randolph County enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

Get Involved. Contacts:

Andee Edelson
aedelson@randolphkids.org
336-629-2128 ext. 30



349 Sunset Avenue, Asheboro NC • phone: 336-629-2128 • fax: 336-629-2135 • www.randolphkids.org

Activities for All Ages

- Fort Building
- Sand and Water Play
- Building Fairy Huts
- Playing with Clay
- Face Painting
- Jump Ropes/Hula Hoops/Balls
- And Much More!!!

Play Daze



When: Saturday, April 27th

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: The O'Neal School

(McMurray Hall - The O'Neal Lower School)
3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines



A collaborative event involving Sandhills Community College, Sandhills AEC, Moore County Partners for Children & Families, NC2so, Be Active Kids, The O'Neal School, and Play Alliance.

Parents' Association Tag Sale

- 8:00am -12:00pm
- Bradshaw Hall Dining Commons
- *Mother Nature's Child*

- A documentary film exploring nature's powerful role in children's health and development
- Featuring Richard Louv, author of *Last Child In The Woods*
- Playing in a McMurray Hall Classroom!!!



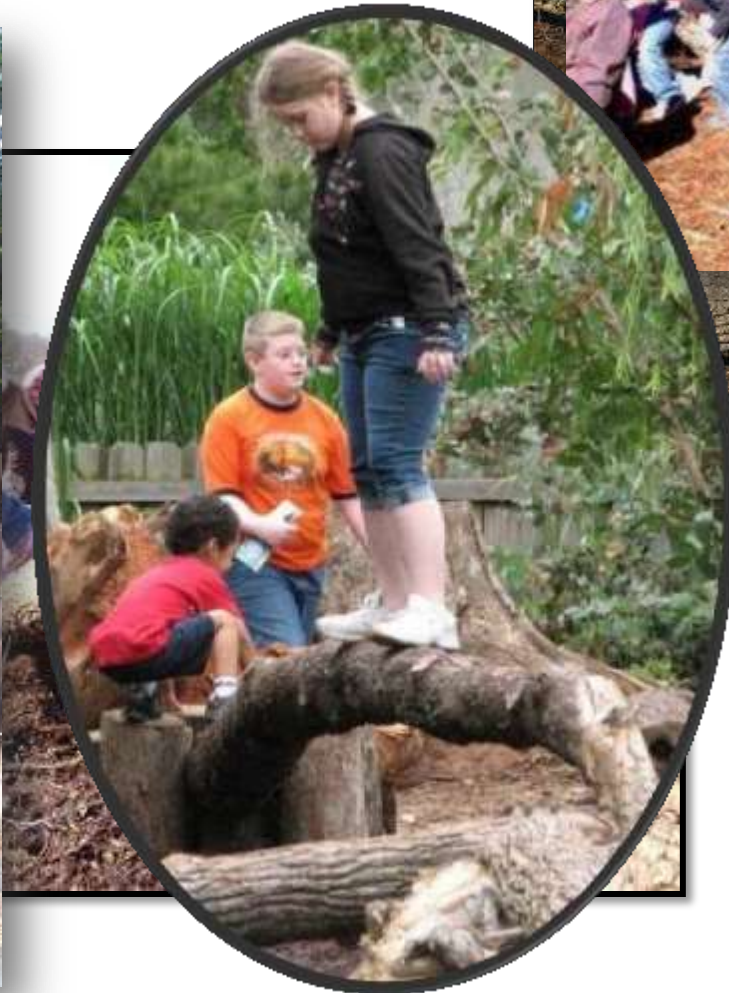
Nature Aspect



Connecting Children with Nature Through Play



Opportunities for Risk Taking



Gardening and Digging





- Training
- Community Involvement
- Research



■ Training



(I appreciated) the collaborative process, hearing each others ideas because we all have different backgrounds and experiences to contribute

I am most thankful for imparting the value of play for our children





Training



I have experienced difficulties in attempting to convince our school admin about this.

To be honest, I had just about given up on my career as an educator, thinking that I was being radical.

You have convinced me to not give in, but fight for my little ones.

playful PEDAGOGY

inspire play. everyday.

Community Involvement



New Zoo & Greenhoro Parks & Recreation Dept
Nature Play D
 Outdoor fun! Fort building, m
 making and more. This is a fun
 family event—plan on getting
 E: Hagan-Stone Park
 June 25, 2011, 11am to 3pm
 No registration required.



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playful PEDAGOGY

inspire play. everyday.

■ Research



NC Zoo Kidzone - All Observation Points

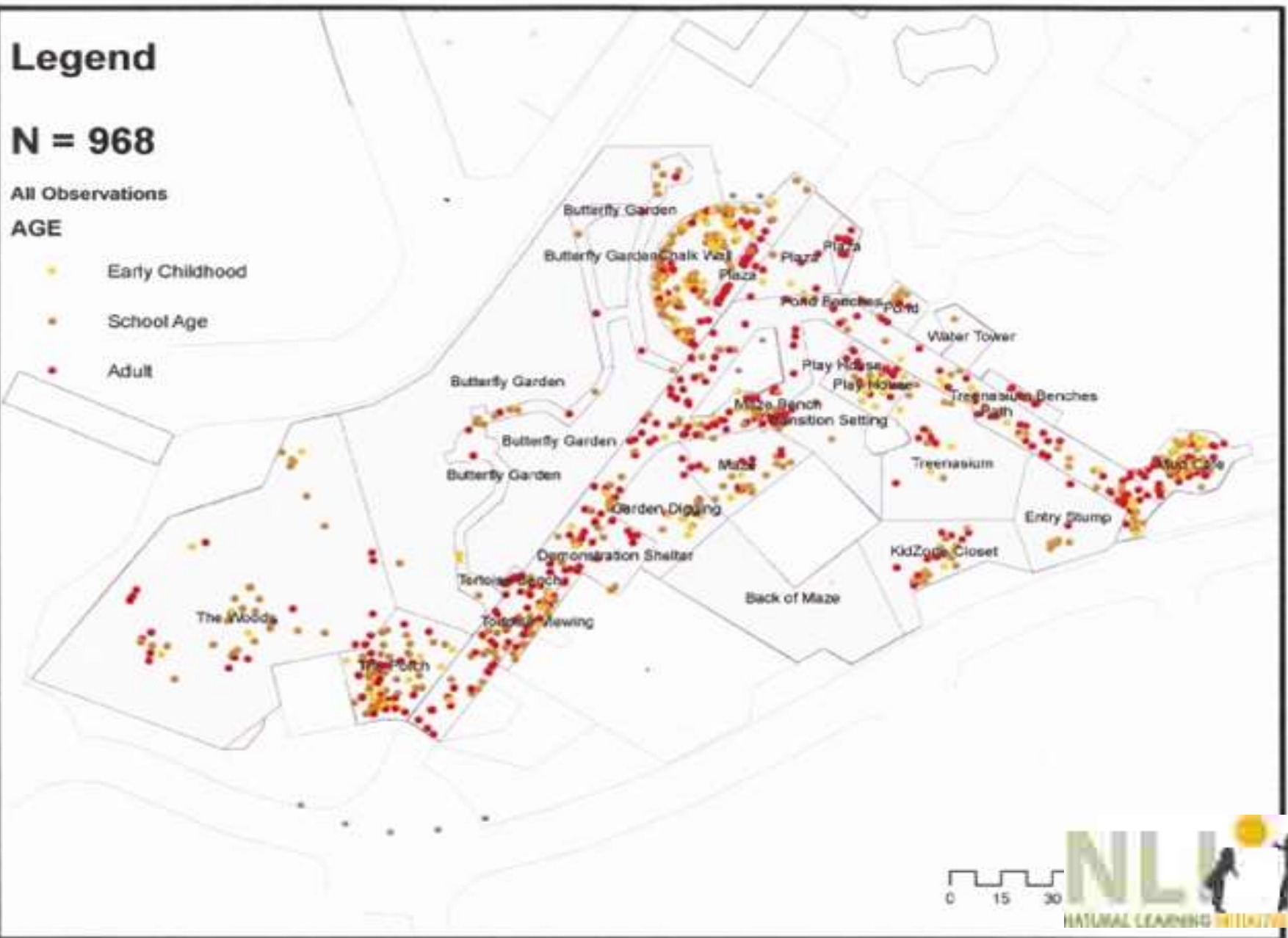
Legend

N = 968

All Observations

AGE

- Early Childhood
- School Age
- Adult





playful
PEDAGOGY
inspire play. everyday.

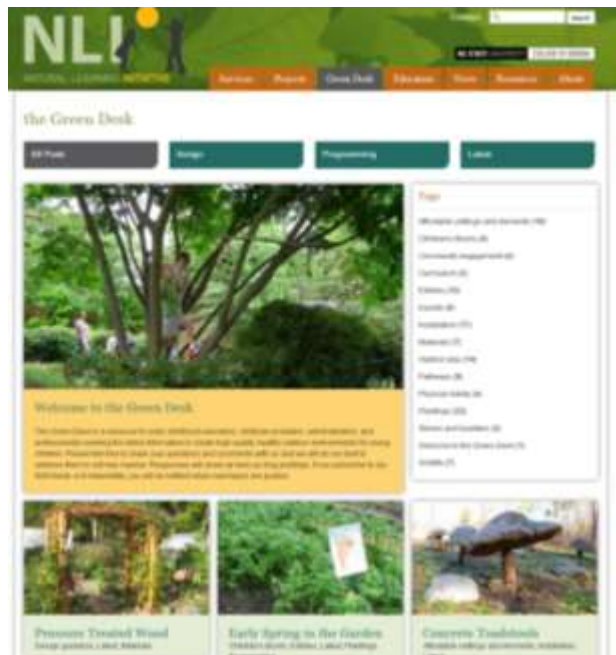
Community Design Aspect



Nature Play Corps

Preventing Obesity by Design

Natural Play and Learning Area Guidelines Project



<http://www.naturalearning.org>



Growing in Place Symposium 2015

Received: 25 July 2019



2017 Division: *Intergenerational Urban Design for Children and Families*

The majority of people live in cities. To encourage new families to embrace urban domestic life, and not move to low-density suburbs, cities need to be designed to support the healthy development of children and the adults that care for them.

10th Annual National Learning Design Institute



By an increase rather than children's subject involvement, a series of measures are affected in these related ecosystems. While many people enjoy games, flowers, but then, and integrated, others avoid what to do with all of the intended bugs and other small creatures that suddenly appear in these rich environments (even we lost the understanding that the very environment fulfills animals as well as humans)?

Growing In Place Symposium 2013

January 15, 2014



Design for Children, Families, and Nature in the City
Location: Walker Arts Museum
 301 East Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

2012 Theme: Parks, Pathways, and Midnight Institutions

More and more people are living in cities. To encourage families to move to urban neighborhoods, an infrastructure of attractive, well-provided parks is required by connected urban neighborhoods to encourage institutions. They plan a community focused on urban neighborhood design for children and families and the foundation it provides for health, well-being, and resource conservation in the 21st century.

9th Annual National Learning Design Institute: Design for Early Childhood Health, Play and Learning

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 109–116



The 100-level Design Institute provided presentations by leading professionals in the fields of early childhood and design, and culminated hands-on activities. This program effectively introduced ideas and concepts for participants to implement in their own child care settings.





That's All Folks!

Richard Rairigh

Be Active Kids®

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www.beactivekids.org

