

Research shows regular time in nature...



1

Facilitates better social and physical development

"Some of the children who are very high energy indoors tend to be calmer and more focused when they are in the Nature Explore outdoor classroom, perhaps because they can tie all their muscles and senses together as they play."

—Vicki Bohling, Parent Educator
Forest Lake Family Center, Forest Lake, MN

2

Improves fitness, motor-skills, and well-being

"A lot of our kids are in environments where they don't have a lot of involvement with the outdoors or the opportunity to be around things where they can climb and explore. The outdoor classrooms become like the backyard—and a stimulating backyard."

—Whitcomb W. Hayslip
Los Angeles Unified School District, CA

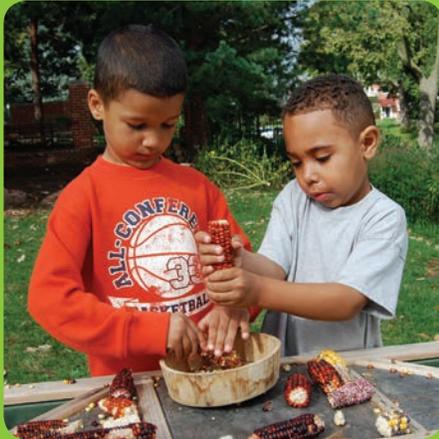
3

Supports creativity and imaginative play

"On a windy day, running around our Nature Explore Classroom with arms opened wide, eyes shut tight, twirling in the wind, Amanda said, 'Sometimes I dream I am a butterfly and I'm flying.'"

—Mona Abou Fakr
Child Educational Center, La Cañada, CA

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4

Inspires collaboration and reduces violence and bullying

"Since this [Nature Explore] program began one year ago, behavior problems at the school have decreased by 30% and the parents have noticed a change in their children."

—Allen England

Hurlburt Field Child Development Center, Hurlburt Field, FL

5

Reduces stress

"Often, if the children are not getting along indoors, the teacher may take them outside to the Nature Explore Classroom. It is evident that they become more cooperative with one another, more nurturing, as they take care of the plants that they have planted, and happier as they dig in the sand. It's not something they often get a chance to do."

—Joanne Osterland, Director

The Family Place Child Development Center, Dallas, TX

6

Creates feelings of empathy for nature—the first step toward developing the next generation of environmental stewards

"We had really meaningful discussions about what students can do to help or protect nature in their own outdoor classroom that means so much to them. We made and signed a pledge to recycle, clean up after ourselves, plant flowers and trees. We will add to this as we go on. Ahh! Life is good!"

—Stephanie Carlson-Pruch

Gomez Heritage Elementary School, Omaha, NE

Our research shows regular time in a Nature Explore Classroom...



7

Supports whole-child development and learning across the curriculum including:

* CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

* SCIENCE

* LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

* MATH

* VISUAL-SPATIAL LEARNING

* CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING SKILLS

"The kids can come out here [to the Nature Explore Classroom] and be creative. It helps create an atmosphere where students and teachers enjoy being at school. If everyone's happy when they come to school, it's a lot easier to learn."

–John Campin
Gomez Heritage School,
Omaha, NE

