

NATURE LETS LEARNING COME TO LIFE!

Studies show that time spent outdoors and getting dirty can be great for kids, with benefits to immune systems, emotional wellbeing and learning skills. (Source: The Dirt on Dirt, National Wildlife Federation). Read on for tips to help your outdoor learning experience be as positive and productive as possible!

1. Use positive statements that express desired behaviors and outcomes.
2. Clearly outline activities and expectations before going outside.
3. Memorize the Garden Agreements and repeat them often. Encourage students to remind each other of the Garden Agreements if they notice peers acting unmindfully.
4. Develop regular routines during visits to the garden. For example:
 - Offer a mele (song) or oli (chant) before entering the garden.
 - Spend two minutes in silent observation upon entering the garden.
 - Close the lesson with a group sharing and reflection.
5. Work with small groups of students whenever possible. Divide the students into groups before going outside.
6. Explain and demonstrate hands-on activities BEFORE handing out props (e.g. loosening soil with trowels, planting seeds, watering).
7. Develop a familiar attention-getting signal. Ask classroom teachers what signals they use.
8. Allow time in the garden for exploration and observations. There is no need for you to know all the answers! Learning for all will develop through experience.



9. Be flexible: Practice connecting students' spontaneous observations with the lesson. Everything is connected!
10. Be prepared: Read the lessons, educate yourself on the key concepts, communicate with your garden team, and get to know the garden!
11. Work together as a team to deliver the garden lessons:
 - Take turns delivering different sections of the introduction.
 - Supporting adults (not actively presenting) should help to keep students' attention focused on the lesson, and prepare for any upcoming activities.
12. Call on the classroom teacher at any time for help with classroom management. Report any and all problems, including first aid needs, to the teacher right away.
13. Call students by their names whenever possible. Ask to have students wear their name tags during the garden lessons.

