


Thursday, June 16, 2022

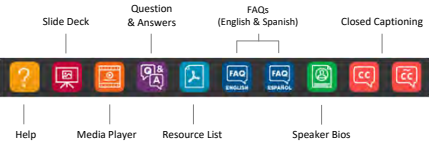
Outdoor Learning Environments for Preschool-Aged Children

Marley Jarvis, PhD
NCECDTL




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Webinar Features




Slide Deck Question & Answers FAQs (English & Spanish) Closed Captioning

Help Media Player Resource List Speaker Bios




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Learning Objectives

1. Describe benefits of time spent outside and how outdoor learning environments support learning and development across domains.
2. Identify strategies for creating and using outdoor spaces to support learning and development for children ages 3-5.



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Being Outdoors Supports Children In Every Developmental Area

Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework


Ages Birth to Five

Approaches to Learning	Language and Literacy	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development	Social and Emotional Development
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For More on the Outdoors and the ELOF:



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What Are the Benefits to Time Outside?

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Improves Physical Fitness



Thigpen 2007

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Boosts Immune System, Mental Health, and Vitamin D Levels



Sennerstam 1997; Engemann et al. 2019


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Milder ADHD Symptoms (Specifically with Green Spaces)




Taylor and Kuo 2011

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Let's Watch a Video



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Focus on Equity

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Who is "Outdoorsy"?

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The Outdoors Are for Everyone!



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The Outdoors Are for Everyone!



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How Can We Make Outdoor Spaces More Welcoming to All?



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Make Outdoor Spaces "Green," Welcoming, and Engaging



Taylor and Butts-Wilmsmeyer, 2020

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Take a Field Trip or Connect with Nature Indoors



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When Availability of Outdoor Play Space Is an Issue

- Resource is intended for programs serving infants and toddlers, but valuable for preschoolers as well!
- Find resource link in your viewer's guide.

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Reflect a Sense of "Home" in Outdoor Spaces



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Make Outdoor Spaces Welcoming and Culturally Inclusive



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Follow Their Lead!



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Video: Engaging the Senses



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Child-directed



Adult-directed



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Calm



Active



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Think Loose Parts Outdoors, Not Just Fixed Equipment



Mahony et al. 2007; Kuh et al. 2013

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Play is For Every Body



- Flexible, open-ended materials support play.
- Play is naturally adaptive.

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Head Start Body Start Play Space Assessment

- Tool and guidance to help assess your program's play spaces and outdoor learning environments.
- Specifically for preschool-aged children.
- Find link to resource in viewer's guide.




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Guest Expert
DeEtta Simmons
Cultivate Learning, University of
Washington

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**Affordable Settings and Elements:
Ideas for Cost Effective Solutions**

- Lots more tips in the resources listed in your viewer's guide.



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Guest Expert
DeEtta Simmons
Cultivate Learning, University of
Washington

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What Are Barriers to Getting Preschoolers Outside More?



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Share Something You've Learned or a Tip in the Q&A!



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Engaging Outdoor Environments Look Like...

- Welcoming and identity-affirming.
- Choice, play, and exploration.
- Variety of materials and spaces.
- Engagement of the senses.
- Adult-led and child-led activities.
- Active and quiet activities.
- Individual, small group, and large group activities.
- Change!



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THANK YOU!

We Want to Hear From You!

For more information contact:
ecdtl@ecetta.info
(Toll-free 1-844-261-3752)

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