



Ten Reasons

Why Creating a Natural Play and Learning Space is a Great Idea

1. Outdoor classrooms can address all areas of curriculum, from physical education to art and music to science, reading, social studies and math.
2. Well-designed outdoor learning environments that support curriculum goals invite outdoor teaching and learning.
3. Edible gardens in schoolyards encourage healthy eating.
4. Students in schools with outdoor education programs score higher on standardized tests.
5. Students who learn to be stewards of their schoolyards are more likely to grow up as responsible citizens of the planet.
6. Natural playspaces draw children outside, and children who spend more time outside are more likely to be physically active and fit.
7. When children spend time in green spaces, their stress levels are reduced, their play is more creative, and conflict is reduced.
8. Once inside, children who have spent time in nature are more cooperative and better able to focus on their work.
9. Building a natural schoolyard builds community. The design process, the construction process and the space that is created each invite the involvement and support of the whole school and the wider community.
10. Once built, a natural schoolyard will be a community asset.