

Science, Nature Play and Learning PLC:

Nurturing a Sense of Wonder, Place & Well-Being in Elementary Education

For Educators Pre-K through grade 3

As children, we develop a love and appreciation for nature and science through wonder-filled hours of outdoor exploration. Nature-based learning in elementary grades allows children to investigate natural phenomena, generate meaningful questions, develop problem solving and communication skills, and foster sense of place. **Join this professional learning community** to venture outside, learn about nature-based play and learning, and investigate best practices in developing rich outdoor learning opportunities for school-aged children.



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The **Science, Nature Play and Learning PLC** will support teachers as leaders, leverage local resources and community connections, as well as make lasting changes in teaching practice. Topics will emerge from the interests and needs of the group and have included: doing science, meeting *Common Core* and *NGSS*, physical spaces and adult role, group management, nature journaling and establishing outdoor routines during the first 6 weeks of school.

Each PLC meeting will include:

- A light and nutritious meal.
- Welcome and closing circles.
- Extended time outdoors.
- Suggested resources to enhance discussions.
- A stipend of up to \$350 to purchase teaching materials (prorated by attendance).
- Commitments of change in practice related to nature-based play and learning.
- Reflection and support for changes in practice resulting in richer outdoor learning opportunities for students.

Meeting dates and locations:

June 6th, 5:30-7:30, Academy School
October 19th, 5:30-7:30, Putney Central School
November 16th, 5:00-7:00, Guilford Central School
January 18th, 4:30-6:30, Oak Grove School
February 15th, 4:30-6:30, location TBD
March 15th, 4:30-6:30, location TBD

Contact Emily Pals

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Cost is \$50 per participant for all 6 sessions.
15 hours of professional development.
Graduate credit available for additional fee.

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