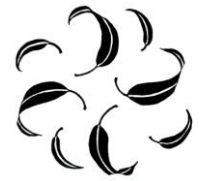


WORKING WITH YOUR CLASSROOM TEACHER



You will be working closely with the classroom teacher this year as part of the *Four Winds Nature Program*, and so you should plan to meet with the teacher a week or two before you go into the classroom in September. Make sure the teacher has a list of the workshop topics that are going to be covered throughout the year. Together with the teacher set up a schedule of when each workshop will be taught. It might help to fill out the schedule below with the teacher, and then leave a copy with the teacher.

DATE	TOPIC
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

At this first orientation meeting with the teacher, it's helpful to discuss the following topics:

- ◆ Classroom rules and expectations
- ◆ Allergies or other health/food concerns
- ◆ Fire Drill procedures and exits to use
- ◆ School policies on confidentiality, field trips, emergency protocols, permission slips, safety, school boundaries, etc.
- ◆ Classroom management strategies
- ◆ Any special considerations you may need to know about the students in the classroom – special needs, language skills, subjects of interest, etc.
- ◆ Encourage the teacher to visit www.nearbynature.fwni.org to become familiar with the lessons and to access information about alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core.

Teachers can help in the following ways to facilitate the volunteer-led workshops in the classroom:

- Meet with volunteers to review the month's topic and lesson plan.
- Help with classroom management and set the tone for outdoor explorations.
- Send home notices about upcoming Four Winds' workshops with reminders to children to bring outdoor clothing. And get signed permission slips for outings, if needed.
- Help assign children to groups when needed.
- Be available to lead small group activities both indoors and outside.
- Talk with volunteers about any concerns or suggestions.
- Consider ways to integrate the unit into the curriculum: pre- or post workshop activities, non-fiction reading, science journals, etc. See the Teacher Resource Page(s) for ideas.

Throughout the year, check in with the teacher for ideas and suggestions for making these lessons as effective as possible. *Four Winds Nature Program* volunteers engage children in community-based science and give students time to practice important science skills.

Thank you for connecting the children in your community to nearby nature!