

Science, Nature Play and Learning PLC:

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

For educators of infants, toddlers, and pre-K through grade 3

As children, we develop a love and appreciation for nature and science through wonder-filled hours of outdoor play: building fairy houses, climbing trees, making mud pies, watching clouds. Nature-based play in early childhood allows children to investigate natural phenomena, generate meaningful questions, develop problem solving and communication skills, and foster a 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 young children.



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: building a peaceful community, adult role and language, using natural play spaces, doing science, parent communication, benefits and risks, observing and documenting learning, 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
- 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:

September 8th, 9:00am-1:00pm, Springfield Learning Garden

October 10th, 5:30-7:30pm, Springfield Learning Garden

November 10th, 9:00am-1:00pm, location TBD

December 12th, 5:30-7:30pm, location TBD

Contact: Emily Pals

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Cost:

\$60 per participant for all 4 sessions
12 hours professional development

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