

Planning Intentionally

FOR CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

THE CASE FOR PLAY

THE CASE FOR NATURE

THE CASE FOR ART

THE CASE FOR COMMUNITY

over abundance of media is having an
children's health. They suggest not

generation ago. They write

last hour of sleep by bedtimes

television and cell phone in the

bedroom. "They assert that fast clean

situation and the rise of ADHD."

n Richard Louv, in his groundbreaking

describes the adverse effect of

media is having on children's rela

tion with the natural world.

we think about our relationship with

the natural world, and how it

we also for our children's

with 'free-range childhoods' (where
nature was ever-present and accessible)

nature for granted. Why not attend a

woodland in a high rise apartment?

from a garden or a park nearby?

Sadly, we've learned that the answer

"For a new generation, nature is

is not a given. It is a luxury.

is not a given. It is a luxury.

television ad depicts a four-wheel

drive off a cliff, leaving a pitman

in a beautiful mountain stream.

stand up in good stead moving forward

and one that's worth basing on to our

children.

screen, oblivious to the landscape and

(2008) wrote that his realization of what

relationship with the natural world was

more old is likely to have a personal

the opportunity to play in the natural

n In the United States, many others, such
as designer Robin Moore and educators

also believe that children should

work in nature.

his traditional practice to work with

children in nature.

children in nature.

where children spend their days in

book, Learning With Nature (2008)

children in nature.

"The most important thing is to

relationship with the natural world was

more old is likely to have a personal

(1997) who along with her husband, mathematician, philosopher and

environments. Here are some of these

motivator for avoiding the ravages of wars

tain View Center for Environmental

n We can work to ensure that every out

Whom we are talking about

of the Earth from being disembled. It

their interests and talents and which

n We can help children truly notice and

shared history with it that offers none of a

and thought. An environment of

to living beings who are themselves

allowed from the world around

W

(1990), who writes about the connection

will here, but in an outdoor in the air

n We can encourage children to exper

small connections. And, this is what is

central idea: a room that is over the

n We can spread the word that children

world and from multiple professions

learn in valuable ways in outdoor filled

mean that this is not a one-time

intentional strategy, but a way in which we reas

face — and through e-mail (one of the

do indoors.

wake-up call for all of us. If it has caused

isolate geographic areas making

us to stop and think more intentionally

was being shared. A comprehensive

Mill (2007) writes

and collaborative effort from the World

Down. Four nations in Mexico, And

and

Collaborative for Children's interna-
tional leadership team resulted in a set
of "Universal Principles for Connect-
ing the World's Children with Nature"

children can communicate what they
know in a very different way than they
might in a traditional classroom.
With teacher support, the outdoors

nature). These ideas will help guide

emotions and learn to process and man-

decision and administrators from

course and confidence and how to

come. The cooperation it took to find

course and confidence and how to

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