

NATURE-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM SNAPSHOT Quick Self-Assessment Rubric

Elements	1	2	3	4
<p><u>Program Goals, Curriculum, Practices</u> Dual goals for ECE & EE where nature is the central organizing concept. Program is child centered, play and inquiry based.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Program focus is on academics. -Teacher directed -Few nature topics, but basic ones (i.e. leaves changing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Program focus is child development. -Mix of teacher and child directed. -Some nature topics are incorporated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Goals are focused on child development, but some nature. -Child centered -Nature topics are inquiry based & often 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Goals for the program are integrated, both child development and EE. -Play based, child-focus -Nature is central concept of curriculum
<p><u>Staffing</u> Teacher's role is facilitator and is trained in both ECE & EE where PD is supported and teachers cultivate own interest in nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Director and teachers have only ECE or EE expertise. -PD is not supported -Teacher directed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Teachers are ECE, but have visiting naturalists. -PD is allowed, but minimal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Teachers with backgrounds in ECE or EE work together to combine expertise in classroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Director and teachers have background in both ECE & EE. -PD is supported -Facilitator, nature guide
<p><u>Environment</u> Indoors is infused with nature and natural light. Outdoors includes nature play and diverse habitats for wild nature experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Indoor areas do not include nature. -Outdoor area is traditional playground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Indoor area sometimes includes nature. -Outdoor area contains gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Indoor area includes natural materials. -Outdoor area has natural play features but no wild areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Classroom is infused with nature, animals, plants, and natural light, -Outdoor natural play areas & diverse habitats.
<p><u>Nature Center</u> Resources include access to naturalists, special programs, animals and artifacts. Leadership supports the nature preschool philosophy and PD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Program is not at a nature center and has no access to those resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program has access to a city park or other natural area that they visit monthly or seasonally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Program has a relationship with a nature center that provides weekly programming at either site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Program is at a nature center and has access to all resources available. -Nature center leadership supports PD and preschool philosophy.
<p><u>Parents & Community</u> Communication with parents of benefits of nature, family programs, sharing nature-based approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Poor parent communication -No family programs or teacher workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fair parent communication- 1 mtg -Annual family prog -Willing to share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Good parent communication (2 mtg) -2 family prog -Conference pres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Excellent parent communication (3 mtg) -Seasonal family prog -Educator workshops