

History

Children in today's world are being adversely affected by their growing disconnection from the natural world. To address this concern, the Working Forum on Nature Education for Young Children was held in October, 2006 at Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska, USA. The Forum brought together, for the first time, people from three diverse groups --landscape architects and community planners, environmentalists, and

early childhood educators -- to share information and plan for future collaborative efforts. Participants from 25 nations as diverse as Swaziland, Denmark, and Belize came together to learn from and with each other. One of the major outcomes of the Forum was the creation of the Nature Action Collaborative for Children.



V. Flores

Mission, Vision and Structure

Our mission is to re-connect children with the natural world by making developmentally appropriate nature education a sustaining and enriching part of the daily lives of the world's children.

The rapidly changing global condition of children and childhood requires new collaborations with new approaches to all that we do with and for children. One area of change is the disconnection of children from the natural world. In this regard, children increasingly face challenging societal, technological and environmental

conditions that are producing deteriorating trends in physical and mental health; at the same time, existing educational approaches and conditions are inadequate to enable them to meet and overcome these challenges, much less secure their future.

Transforming our approach to environments, health and early education is critical. Connecting children with the natural world:

- Is crucial for their optimal intellectual and physical development;

- Provides a sense of refuge and healing in a sometimes violent and frightening world;
- Helps them grow into adults who care about environmental stewardship;
- Nurtures a sense of shared community among the world's peoples.

A global regional representative structure has been developed. Each of the six regions of the world is represented by up to three leaders. Regional leaders have been chosen to provide as much representation of each of the three disciplines as possible.

Join the Nature Action Collaborative for Children

We welcome involvement from anyone who shares the common goal of re-connecting children with nature. The Collaborative works world-wide on efforts to:

1. Provide opportunities to collect and disseminate information (including research)
2. Provide professional growth and mentoring opportunities
3. Become a strong voice for advocacy
4. Provide opportunities for early educators, environmentalists and landscape architects/ community planners (as well as others such as architects, health care professionals, parents, and elected officials) to meet together regularly.



Please join us by registering for membership at worldforumfoundation.org. There are no membership fees. Through the website members will be able to post information of interest to others, learn of upcoming events relating to nature education, and find links to recent research and other current information.