

Resources for Outdoor Play

Websites:

www.silkysteps.com

<http://cyfernet.ces.ncsu.edu/nncc/index.php?c=1017>

- Making the Most of Outdoor Time with Preschool Children
- All 4 Kids: Let's Get Moving!
- Play TAG with Your Kids: Tips to Ensure Positive Competitive Experience
- Bam!
- Play! Outside: Teaching Parents and Teachers What to do with Children Outdoors
- Quality in Outdoor Environments for Child Care
- Research Spotlight: Make Time For Free Play

<http://www.nrdc.org/reference/kids.asp>

- Online magazine *EEK!* is packed with short articles and activities about animals, plants and environmental issues. The name might sound scary, but the site is lots of fun -- it's a place to share stories about your outdoor experiences, make nature-inspired art projects and find out about seasonal events.
- **Going Bug-gy** - Did you know daddy longlegs aren't really spiders? Or that some butterflies have tongues almost as long as their bodies? Find out more by reading the Question and Answer section of this Scholastic website, which offers "facts and fun about insects". Read up on spiders, bees, and butterflies, and then try the *Build Your Own Caterpillar* game -- it invites players to choose physical attributes that might help a caterpillar face particular threats, and then analyzes their choices at the end.
- **Kids' Planet** - This site is packed with fun, kid-friendly environmental information. Learn about animals around the world, play animal-themed games and find simple ways to help protect the environment.
- **National Geographic Kids** - You'll find lots of articles and games about science and nature at this website. Like what you see? Additional web features for kids are available in the National Geographic Explorer section.
- **My First Garden** - Visit this website for help planning a kid-friendly garden. The University of Illinois extension site uses simple, fun language to explain each step, from choosing a location, to deciding what to plant. Don't forget to come back in a few months to submit a photo to the garden gallery!
- **A Walk in the Woods** - As kids click through this photo-filled University of Illinois extension website, they'll discover that a walk in the woods is a great way to learn about and appreciate nature. If your computer has speakers, turn them on to hear an enthusiastic voice read the text of each page.
- **Biodiversity: Everything Counts** - If the word "biodiversity" makes you think of exotic habitats and endangered species, this website from the American Museum of Natural History will help bring the meaning closer to home. Find out how biodiversity affects your everyday life (even if you live in a city) and then click on "Stuff to Do" for biodiversity-related activities to try after you've turned off your computer.

Books:

- *I Love Dirt!* by Jennifer Ward
- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv
- *Trails, Tails & Tidepools in Pails: Over 100 Nature Activities for Families With Babies and Young Children* by Docents of Nursery Nature Walks and Marlena Day
- *Nature's Playground: Activities, Crafts, and Games to Encourage Children to Get Outdoors* by Fiona Danks and Jo Schofield
- *Childhood and Nature* by David Sobel
- *Go Wild!: 101 Things to Do Outdoors Before You Grow Up* by Fiona Danks and Jo Schofield
- *Botany for All Ages: Discovering Nature Through Activities for Children and Adults* by Jorie Hunken
- *Nature With Children of All Ages* by Edith A. Sisson
- *Ecology for All Ages: Discovering Nature Through Activities for Children and Adults* by Jorie Hunken
- *A Natural Sense of Wonder: Connecting Kids with Nature through the Seasons* by Rick Van Noy
- *Environments for Outdoor Play: A Practical Guide to Making Space for Children* by Theresa Casey
- *Learning Outdoors: Improving the Quality of Young Children's Play Outdoors* by Helen Bilton, Karen James, Ann Wilson, and Maggie Woonton
- *Outdoor Play: Teaching Strategies With Young Children* (Early Childhood Education Series (Teachers College Pr)) by Jane Perry
- *Outdoor Play Everyday: Innovative Play Concepts for Early Childhood* by Karyn Wellhousen
- *Plants for Play: A Plant Selection Guide for Children's Outdoor Environments* by Robin C. Moore
- *A Child's Garden: 60 Ideas to Make Any Garden Come Alive for Children* (Archetype Press Books) by Molly Dannenmaier
- *Kick the Can* (Project Play) by Marlene Byrne, Illustrated By Jesse Graber, and Jesse Graber
- *Kid's Places to Play* by Jeanne Huber
- *Playing Outdoors in the Winter* (Safety Town) by Dorothy Chlad
- *Games Children Play: How Games and Sport Help Children Develop* by Kim Brooking-Payne, Kate Hammond, and Marije Rowling
- *Baby's World: Outdoors* (Play & Learn Series) by Meryl Doney and Geoff Dean
- *Outdoor Learning And Play, Ages 8-12* by Kathleen Glascott Burriss and Barbara Foulks Boyd
- *Let's Play Outdoors* (Naeyc Publication No. 101) by Katherine Baker
- *The Outside Play and Learning Book: Activities for Young Children* by Karen Miller and Laura Burney
- *Children's Play and Nature in an Urban Environment* (Marburger Schriften Zur Medizingeschichte,) by Beate Jansson