

OUTDOOR LEARNING

*More than just going
outside* 🍁



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WHY DOES OUTDOOR LEARNING *Matter?*

**Outdoor learning can
support:**

- Physical development
- social interaction
- curiosity
- well-being
- problem solving



**OUTDOOR SPACES CAN CREATE MEANINGFUL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND
EXPLORATION.**

BUT HERES THE PROBLEM....

Being outside does not automatically mean meaningful learning.

Some outdoor spaces support inquiry and collaboration. Others offer only supervision and repetitive play.



OUTDOOR LEARNING DEPENDS ON HOW THE EXPERIENCE IS DESIGNED.

One experience, outdoor learning included:

- the same toys everyday
- minimal educator involvement
- limited materials
- repetitive play



EXPERIENCE 1:

Limited Outdoor Learning

CHILDREN OFTEN LOST INTEREST QUICKLY
AND HAD FEWER OPPORTUNITIES FOR
DEEPER LEARNING.

In another experience ,
outdoor learning included:

- loose parts & natural materials
- intentional planning
- open-ended exploration
- active educator support



EXPERIENCE 2: *Intentional Outdoor Learning*

CHILDREN STAYED ENGAGED LONGER,
COLLABORATED MORE, AND EXPLORED
WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE.

OUTDOOR LEARNING IS STRONGER WHEN EDUCATORS HAVE:

Professional development

Supportive Leadership

Flexible, open-ended materials

Confidence in outdoor pedagogy



*What supports
meaningful*
OUTDOOR LEARNING?

**SUPPORT MATTERS JUST AS
MUCH AS EDUCATORS' BELIEFS.**

*Outdoor learning
is not meaningful*

JUST BECAUSE
CHILDREN ARE
OUTSIDE

It becomes meaningful through:

Intention

Planning

Resources

Educator Involvement

OUTDOOR SPACES ARE POWERFUL
LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS WHEN
THEY ARE THOUGHTFULLY
SUPPORTED.

Instagram Caption:

MANY PEOPLE TALK ABOUT OUTDOOR LEARNING AS IF IT IS ALWAYS MEANINGFUL, BUT MY RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCES SHOWED THAT THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE. IN SOME PLACES, TIME SPENT OUTDOORS WAS THE SAME OVER AND OVER AGAIN, NOT WELL SUPERVISED, AND NOT WELL-EQUIPPED. IN MY SECOND EXPERIENCE, OUTDOOR LEARNING WAS PLANNED WITH PURPOSE, HAD A LOT OF OPEN-ENDED MATERIALS, AND EDUCATORS WERE ACTIVELY INVOLVED. THIS CAROUSEL TALKS ABOUT THE MAIN FINDINGS OF MY CAPSTONE PROJECT ON THE PROS, CONS, AND WAYS TO HELP PRESCHOOLERS LEARN OUTSIDE. GOING OUTSIDE ISN'T THE ONLY PART OF MEANINGFUL OUTDOOR LEARNING; IT ALSO DEPENDS ON HOW EDUCATORS PLAN, SUPPORT, AND VALUE THE EXPERIENCE.

#OUTDOORLEARNING

#EARLYCHILDHOODEDUCATION #ECE

#PLAYBASEDLEARNING #PRESCHOOL