

Introduction to Forest School

Manitoba Nature Summit, September 12, 2014

Mavis Lewis-Webber

Excerpt from ***“Forest and Nature School in Canada: A Head, Heart, Hands Approach to Outdoor Learning”*** by Forest School Canada, June 2014

Forest and Nature School Principles, pg. 22

- Takes place in a variety of spaces, including local forests, creeks, meadows, prairie grasses, mountains, shorelines, tundra, natural playgrounds and outdoor classrooms
- Is a long-term process of regular and repeated sessions in the same natural space
- Is rooted in building an on-going relationship to place and principles of place-based education
- Is rooted in and supports building engaged, healthy, vibrant, and diverse communities
- Aims to promote the holistic development of children and youth
- Views children and youth as competent and capable learners
- Supports children and youth, with a supportive and knowledgeable educator, to identify, co-manage and navigate risk. Opportunities to experience risk is seen as an integral part of learning and healthy development
- Requires qualified Forest and Nature School practitioners who are rooted in and committed to FNS pedagogical theory and practical skills
- Requires that educators play the role of facilitator rather than expert
- Uses loose, natural material to support open-ended experiences
- Values the process is as valued as the outcome
- Requires that educators utilize emergent, experiential, inquiry-based, play-based, and place-based learning approaches

Contact Information

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“Introduction to Forest School?”

Workshop Presentation at the Manitoba Nature Summit , September 12, 2014

Presentation by Mavis Lewis-Webber

Resource List

Forest School Canada www.forestschoolcanada.ca

UK Forest School Association www.forestschoolassociation.org

Manitoba Nature Summit Inc. www.naturesummitmb.com

Connecting Canadians with Nature: Canadian Parks Council

http://www.parks-parcs.ca/english/ConnectingCanadians-English_web.pdf

Forest School Canada, Forest and Nature School in Canada: A Head, Hands, Heart Approach to Outdoor Learning

http://www.forestschoolcanada.ca/wp-content/themes/wlf/images/FSC-Guide_web.pdf

Gordon, Andrea, (2013). ***Forest Kids: Why the Modern Classroom is Moving Outdoors***, Toronto Star Newspapers, Star Dispatches, Toronto, Canada.

[Kenny, Erin, \(2011\). *Forest Kindergartens: The Cedar Song Way*](#)

Knight, Sara, (2013). ***Forest School and Outdoor Learning in the Early Years, 2nd edition***, SAGE Publications, London, UK.

Warden, Claire, (2012). ***Nature Kindergartens and Forest Schools, 2nd edition***, Mindstretchers, Perthshire, Scotland.

SAVE THE DATE!

****June 8 – 12, 2015 – Forest School Canada, Red River College and Fort Whyte Alive are partnering to deliver the Forest School Practitioner Course at Fort Whyte. Stay tuned for further information.**