

Niagara Nature Alliance Network Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 30, 2017 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Heartland Forest, 8215 Heartland Forest Road, Niagara Falls, L2H 0L5

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Acceptance of Agenda and Additions
 - Reviewing the agenda - was accepted with no amendments.
3. Updates on Naturalized Playground Initiative
 - 4 Pilot sites have finalized Playground construction with 22 more sites to go
 - Review of "Position" article speaking to "access to active play in nature and outdoors"
4. Tour Heartland Forest
 - Tour of outdoors – Crustacean experiment at CTFS pavilion, cooperative activities in treehouse, a walk along Sydney's deck for viewing ended with reflection at campfire pit
5. Roundtable conversation
 - Crustacean experiment shed light on many different avenues of exploration can be provided to children
 - Participants spoke about the calming effect of being outdoors
 - Many shared ideas and blogs followed by various individuals around the world pertaining to outdoor play
6. What Next?
 - Discussed ideas moving forward such as sessions on innovative ways to use your playground or workshop with featured guest such as bug expert or different resources to book for child care centres
 - Also had conversation about create and collaborate for outdoors
 - Participants would like to have a mission and a vision while sharing ideas and suggestions at each network
 - Discussed barriers such as the website being more user friendly, email notifications for networks and connecting parents with nature again
 - Suggestions made of holding a workshop where parents can visit a playground, mess about and understand the value of play
7. ECCDC Resource Display – Resource Reference List and Resource Display
 - Spoke Nature Forum and how to access on website and whether it is a resource used
 - Professional Learning Opportunities offered in Spring ESTEEM
8. Venue and Location for Fall meeting
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9. Meeting Evaluation